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INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

TEL AVIV THREAT



Hezbollah supporters, listen to the Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah who speaks via a video link, during a rally to mark the third anniversary of the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war, in a southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on Friday Aug. 14, 2009. The leader of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah Sheik Hassan Nasrallah says his group will hit Israel's main city of Tel Aviv if Israeli forces attack Beirut or the guerrillas' stronghold in its southern suburbs.

See International News on
Page B8

SPORTS NEWS

NOT ROGER'S CUP



Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts as he faces Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament Friday, Aug. 14, 2009 in Montreal. Tsonga rallied to win 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (3).

See Sports Today on Page B10

1st Aruba Rembrandt Regatta promises to be a festival of fun



PALM BEACH - Fun will play a starring role during the 1st Aruba Rembrandt Sailing Regatta, which is being held from August 14 to 16. Following the examples of Bonaire and Curaçao, this international event will

hopefully draw many local and international sailors. Sunfishes, Beach Cats, yachts of various sizes and most probably windsurfers will compete in different categories. International participation is confirmed: the

Melody, the Venus Calypige, Team Ibis, the D-Trip, the Dash and Curaçao Marine are coming to pit their strength against our ten Aruban yachts. The 'Round Aruba Race' is going to be most exciting: the 'big boys' will show who is

king of the cruel waves in a show of bravery and daring. Local captains Anthony Hagedoorn of the Tranquilo and Eric Mijts of the Eva Luna have found a great crew to help organize this first annual event and festival, which takes place in the domain of main regatta sponsor Rembrandt Café. With the enthusiastic support of the Aruba Port Authority, the Coast Guard, the Renaissance Marina and many others behind this first regatta, courses will be sailed in such a way that spectators get a good view of the proceedings: a starting line at the Renaissance harbor and buoys close to shore at Surfside beach and Renaissance island. Wow.

To keep the fun factor high, the possibility has been created for corporate businesses to rent boats at local water sports companies to join in. For sailors from abroad, rental of boats is an option too.

Continued on Next Page

Sarah-Quita Offringa (Starboard/NeilPryde) claimed the "sailor of the day" award

Aruban wins race in Women Pegasus Airlines World Cup



ORANJESTAD - With a sensational victory in race eight, Sarah-Quita Offringa (Starboard/NeilPryde) claimed the "sailor of the day" award. What makes the triumph even more glorious is that she is the first woman to break down the infallible Ghibaudo (Tabou/The Loft) here in Turkey. Sarah-Quita controlled the race from start to finish and kept here nerve, despite immense

pressure from the leader. The result means she leaps from fourth to second ahead of Sarah Hebert and Karin Jaggi.

When told for the first time she was second she commented, "No way, really? That is sick!!! It must be really close, but I am super happy about it."

Despite the set back for Ghibaudo she continues to count a perfect score of first places and now looks firm favorite to take the event title, and with it become the 2009 slalom World Champion. □



1st Aruba Rembrandt Regatta promises to be a festival of fun



Continued from Front Page

If you don't have a yacht, but want to sail along, we know that the Tranquilo is looking for crew members, so start calling Anthony...

The festival at Café Rembrandt will start on Thursday, August 13 and on Friday, 14 with the registration of participants.

After that the Captain's Meeting will be held at Matthew's Restaurant at Casa del Mar Beach

Resort and the festivities at Café Rembrandt will get underway for real with live music. On Saturday, August 15, the yachts have an early, 7 am start for their Round Aruba Race, while the Fun Class Yachts start at 1.30 pm; of course with the festival at Rembrandt's taking a curtain call.

On Sunday, the yachts race at 9 am, while the Sunfishes, Beach Cats and Fun Yachts compete later in the day.

The Award ceremony and dinner are held at Café Rembrandt. Co-sponsor is Heineken Beer.

Everyone is welcome to join the first Aruba Rembrandt Regatta.

Even if you are not very experienced, this is the time to get a taste of racing. For information and pre-registration you can mail to rembrandtregatta@live.com or call 565-6887. Join the fun! □



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Royal Romance at Okeanos Spa



PALM BEACH — The Renaissance Aruba Resort just conceived an unforgettable, for-two, experience, as an Okeanos Spa Summer promotion. The offer aptly called Royal Romance includes a 50-minute indoor, couples' massage at the newly renovated Okeanos Spa followed by an exquisite special dinner menu at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House.

Just one very lucky couple reservation will be accepted per night. The tremendous experience designed to renew and refresh the body and the mind has a modest price tag attached of just \$275 per couple, and reservations may be called in to Tel.: 523 6176. Patrons are invited to come into the Spa for their treatment after 4 pm. The restaurant will

have their table available from 5:30 pm.

The culinary experience starts off with a welcome flute of Kir Royal, followed by a fresh green salad with croutons and blue cheese dressing, or a baby spinach salad with warm bacon vinaigrette, bacon, fresh mushrooms, and pine nuts.

For main courses the restaurant features a Yellow Fin Tuna Steak grilled to medium rare and served with mashed potatoes, green asparagus and a mango coriander sauce or a Petite Fillet Mignon, marinated and grilled to perfection with roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetable and mushroom in a Cabernet sauce. The dessert, fresh tropical fruit with vanilla ice-cream and Grand Marnier Sabayon, truly concludes the exceptional evening with a sweet sensation.

The images speak louder

than words, the lovely spa, a fantastic time, make Royal the elegant restaurant and Romance one of summer's the Renaissance promise of most irresistible offers. □



Marlin to meet with Bijleveld

THE HAGUE--Commissioner of Constitutional Affairs and Education William Marlin will be arriving in the Netherlands, Saturday, for a four-day visit. He will meet with Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, among others. Constitutional affairs in general and, more specifically, St. Maarten's future status as country in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, will be the main topics of discussion in the private meeting between Marlin and Bijleveld-Schouten. This meeting takes place in The Hague on Monday.

While in the Netherlands, Marlin will

also meet with officials of St. Maarten Student Support Services S4, members of communication management and public affairs company Pauw Sanders Zeilstra Van Spaendonck (PSZVS) and Minister Plenipotentiary in The Hague Marcel van der Plank. Marlin will also have a meeting with Deputy Minister Plenipotentiary Mavis Brooks-Salomon to discuss, among other issues, the model of the "St. Maarten House" in The Hague. The representative office for St. Maarten is currently being set up, with the official opening tentatively planned for the second week of September. □

SATURDAY'S LOBSTER NIGHT



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Aruba's best players bite the sand!

Top level Beach Tennis at Italian World Cup games



ITALY - Aruba's best Beach Tennis players knew what they were in for when they flew to Rimini, Italy to participate in the fifteenth Beach Tennis World Cup, which were held from July 27 – August 2. Last year, Cado de Vreede, Wessel Schaling, Jochem Ros and his wife Claire had witnessed the power of top-level play at the Aruba International Beach Tennis Championships, held at MooMba Beach.

There, the Italians were awesome ... On their home ground things were no different this year: the Italians, male as well as female, were invincible. With jump serves, spectacular smashes, fabulous dives and riveting rallies, Matteo Marighella and Alex Mingozi and Frederica Baschetta and Giulia Spazzoli won the finals. The Arubans lost, but gained a lot of experience. "This World Cup saw play at the highest level so far," they said.

Participating countries were Brazil, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, Reunion Island, France, the Czech Republic, Italy, Spain, the Canary Islands, the USA and Aruba. Play was on 10 courts and one thousand spectators enjoyed the fantastic moves in the sand. Jochem Ros lost in the poule: first with Claire and then with Derrick. In the singles he beat Alex Momo of Spain (7-5), but had to bow



to Ricci Sarti from Italy in the second round. Aruba lost in the Nations Cup from Reunion Island in the quarter finals. The results were: Frederica Baschetta/Giulia Spazzoli – Simona Bonadonna/Elena Deluca 6-3/2-6/6-4 and Matteo Marighella/Alex Mingozi – Ricci Sarti/Claudio Barbieri 6-4/7-5. The winners of the Italian World Cup have all confirmed their participation at the Aruba International Beach Tennis Championships, held on November 13 – 15.

This tournament is going to be part of a newly formed World Tour. So Beach Tennis is on the move....

On Aruba, the weekly competition is starting up, so everyone can get in shape on time for the November event. For information please surf to www.arubabeachtennis.com. Beach Tennis on Aruba is powered by Alno Kitchen, ATA, Amstel Bright, Aruba Aloe, Bacardi Mojito, Inter Assure and Monster Energy ☐



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BetOnSports founder Gary Kaplan pleads guilty

By CHERYL WITTENAUER (AP)

ST. LOUIS — The founder of the online gambling site BetOnSports.com pleaded guilty on Friday to federal racketeering conspiracy and other charges, concluding years of investigating and prosecuting a case in the complex world of offshore sports gambling.

Gary Kaplan, 50, who started out as a New York bookie who didn't complete high school, and who in recent years held his business out to the world as the largest and best in the industry, agreed in a plea deal to forfeit \$43.6 million in illegally obtained revenue from his criminal enterprise.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Holtshouser said Kaplan won't be left penniless.

The money, most of which will go to the U.S. government, already has arrived in the states from a Swiss bank account, and represents "more than half" of Kaplan's total worth, Holtshouser said. Some of the proceeds may go to New Jersey and Switzerland for their cooperation in the case.

He said Kaplan has a trust "with many millions" in New Jersey and Switzerland.

Kaplan founded the offshore company in 1995, setting up entities in Aruba, Antigua and eventually Costa Rica to solicit U.S. citizens to place sports wagers by phone and over the Internet directly from their U.S. accounts. It grew to be one of the largest online gambling firms in the world.

By Kaplan's own admission in court Friday, BetOnSports had a million registered customers and accepted more than 10 million sports bets in excess of a billion dollars in 2004 alone. By then, he was based in Costa Rica, where he employed 1,700 people and provided a day care center for their children that was next to his firing range, Holtshouser said. Kaplan took BetOnSports public on the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market in 2004, which netted him more than \$100 million that was invested in Swiss bank accounts. For the next two years, he served as BetOnSports' consultant.

Online gaming is illegal in the U.S., and in 2006, a federal grand jury indicted Kaplan, his company and several associates. Four other former executives, including two of Kaplan's siblings, have

pleaded guilty. No one has been sentenced.

Prosecutors said the company falsely advertised that its Web-based and phone-based gambling operations were legal, and misled gamblers into believing that money transferred to BetOnSports was safe and available to withdraw at any time. Instead, investigators said, the money was used to expand operations, including purchase of a rival betting firm. When BetOnSports ceased operation in 2006, customers lost more than \$16 million.

Kaplan, appearing tidy and respectable in a jail-issued orange jumpsuit, read aloud a lengthy statement to the judge detailing his company's history, while his wife, children, a sister and nieces and nephews listened from the audience.

He told U.S. District Judge Carol Jackson that he initially believed that adhering to the laws and practices of his offshore entities in Aruba, Antigua, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and the United Kingdom kept him in good stead with U.S. laws. But he said he became aware as early as 2000 that such

dealings violated U.S. law, and got confirmation in a legal opinion in 2002 when he tried to take the company public. Yet, he kept operating.

"I accept responsibility for my actions and I realize that as a U.S. citizen, I should have abided by U.S. law," he said. "Nevertheless, I do not agree with the U.S. stance against offshore telephone and Internet sports betting. But I do accept full responsibility for my decisions."

Kaplan pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy, violating the Wire Wager Act, and conspiring to violate it. In exchange, other charges were dropped.

Defense and prosecuting attorneys are recommending he serve anywhere from 41 to 51 months in prison, but Jackson could impose more or less at Kaplan's sentencing Oct. 27. He will pay no fines or restitution besides the forfeiture. He has already served 29 months in jail since



his March 2007 arrest in Puerto Rico.

For a year before his arrest, Holtshouser said Kaplan was "on the run, fleeing all over the world" with fake passports, "trying to establish a place where he could not be extradited."

The case could have been filed anywhere in the U.S., but the Eastern District of Missouri's former U.S. Attorney Catherine Hanaway, who was committed to pursuing this area of crime, Holtshouser said, went after it with Department of Justice backup and the help of undercover FBI agents who placed bets with Kaplan's company.

Federal agents have been investigating offshore sports gambling since 1997, and BetOnSports since 2001. □

September 2-6, 2009

ASUTIL conference to feature keynote address by Harvard professor

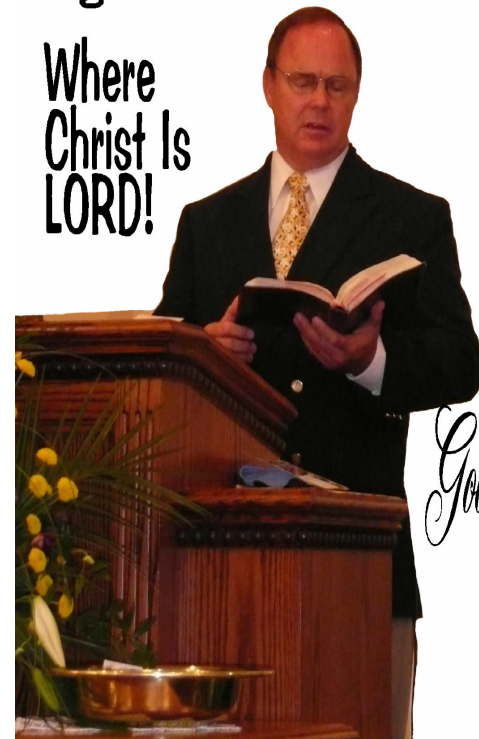
ORANJESTAD - The 2009 Asociación Sudamericana de Tiendas Libres (ASUTIL) conference, to be held in Aruba on September 2-6, will feature a keynote address by Harvard Business School professor of business administration Das Narayandas, who will talk about the importance of customer service. Narayandas chairs the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program for Leadership Development and previously worked as course head of the required first-year marketing course in the MBA programme. He also has more than six years' management experience in sales and marketing for several companies.

ASUTIL secretary general José Luis Donagaray said: "We are pleased to announce that Narayandas will be our keynote speaker. The title of his speech will be Managing Customers—Setting Expectations, Delivering Excellence and Building Loyalty. Given his wide experience and knowledge, I am sure we will all be able to learn new things to apply to our own businesses." He added: "Registrations for the conference are in line with our original expectations and we already have more than 175 delegates. Anybody who still wants to attend can register at our website." □

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Good News

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Radisson Hotels & Resorts Appoints Regional Sales Manager for Aruba And St Martin



ORANJESTAD – Radisson Hotels & Resorts recently announced the appointment of Elizabeth Dexter as

regional sales manager for Radisson Resorts Aruba and St Martin. Dexter will promote both properties and lead group sales efforts in the West and Midwest regions of the United States and Canada.

“Liz Dexter is an exciting addition to our team, bringing strong luxury market relationships,” said the resorts’ director of Sales and Marketing Francis Purvey. “Our presence in the Caribbean will benefit from her expertise and

contributions.”

Dexter comes to Radisson with over 15 years of hospitality sales and marketing experience, representing premier properties in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean. She is a member of the Society of Incentive & Travel Executives (SITE), Meeting Planners International (MPI) and the American Society for Training and Development, among several other key travel associations. Dexter

holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management from Florida International University.

The Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa is situated on Palm Beach and encompasses the most picturesque 14-oceanfront acres on the island. The AAA Four Diamond-rated property features white sandy beaches, lagoons, waterfalls, manicured gardens and 353 guestrooms including 30 luxurious suites and exclusive Plaza Club accommodations. The resort also features sumptuous cuisine, two free-form pools, a 16,000 square foot casino, the 13,000 square foot award-winning Larimar Spa, PADI watersports facility, and over 15,000 square feet of meeting space.

Nestled in the secluded

cove of Anse Marcel, the Radisson St Martin Resort, Marina & Spa was recently awarded the AAA Four Diamond Award within months of its opening in December 2008. Lush tropical gardens surround the signature zero-entry infinity pool on three sides, with 1,600 feet of white sand and cerulean waters of the Caribbean as the backdrop. A full-service marina, airport water transfers, PADI Diving/Watersports Center, and rentals for canoes, kayaks, and wave runners offer guests many exciting ways to explore the Caribbean waters. Earlier this month, the resort opened Le Spa and fitness center, offering guests a comprehensive spa experience in one of the island’s most picturesque settings. □



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Ask about the Early Bird Menu from 4 PM to 6:30 PM



Fishes & More specialize in fresh fish and seafood, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to our dishes. Influences from all over the world are found back

on the menu and they are already well known for our daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work only with fresh and honest

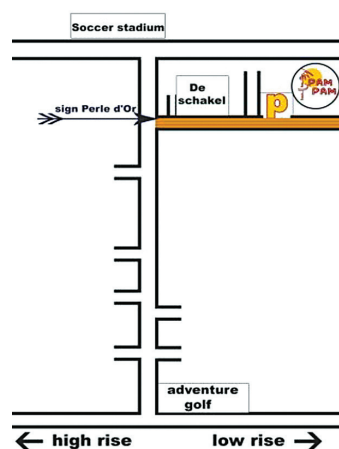
products! Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as we have a kids playground and a kids menu to entertain them, so they can enjoy their

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Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café



Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably prices snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among

other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban

florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone: 5877710 or 5932660

The Apples eat Banana Banana at Moby Dick's

Celebrations, honeymoons & anniversaries never end on Aruba



PALM BEACH – Stacy and Ronny Apple enjoyed the best night of their time on Aruba at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant. The Apples have been coming to Aruba for 33 years for their honeymoon and

have been returning year after year ever since. They were so surprised to cross paths with Host Lepi, one of their favorite waiters from Talk of the Town over 30 years ago. The couple enjoyed the

freshest catches of the day including the mahi mahi and the tuna combined with great appetizers and wine followed by one of the most delicious deserts ever. Moby Dick's has become famous for their

Banana Banana and craved by everyone who tries it. After dinner, they were joined by newlyweds Jennifer & Jerry Revels who exchanged rings and vows on the beach earlier in the week.

In addition to the Apples celebrating their Aruban Anniversary and the Revels celebrating their honeymoon, Alain and Natalie Dertadian from Montreal, Canada celebrating their 10th

anniversary with children Alexander and Alyssa together with Mr. and Mrs. Hazare and Hasmik Met.

With Great surprise, Connie and Morty from Pittsbyrhgh, PA were celebrating their 20th consecutive year coming to Aruba and met up with one of their favorite islanders that they've also known since the beginning, "Roger" who now works as head bartender at Moby Dick.



During a romantic ceremony on Eagle Beach

Jennifer & Jerry exchange rings and vows on the beach



EAGLE BEACH - Jerry H. Revels and Jennifer L. Bray were married on the beach just before sunset during an intimate beach blessing officiated by Rev. Geoffrey F. R. Banfield. Jerry is originally from Tampa, Florida and Jennifer from Arkansas and they dreamed of a destination wedding to Aruba.

orchestrated the most perfect ceremony on Aruba's longest stretch of sugar-white beach. Congratulations to Jennifer and Jerry from Aruba Today and Bella Aruba Photography ☐

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Deployed Airmen work together for reef cleaning



A group of deployed Airmen from the 964th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron worked with a team of volunteers to help clean up a section of beach and coral reefs as a service to the community of Curacao, Netherlands Antilles.

(Air Force photo)

CURACAO, Netherlands Antilles — With three months of counter-drug experience already behind them, AWACS crews were confident that they could handle the special task with which they were presented. July 30, they were armed with rubber gloves, trash bags and wet suits in an effort to clean up more than one-half mile of Curacao beach, much of that area under water.

The event was organized by Capt. Christopher Nagy, co-pilot for the 964th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron, in partnership with Project AWARE, a non-profit

organization dedicated to the preservation of underwater environments, and DiveVersity SCUBA diving schools.

More than sixty people assembled in a hugely cooperative effort to clean beach and coral reef areas. These reefs serve as barriers against erosion for the island, as well as nurseries for 5,000 fish species and 7,000 coral species. Coral grows at a rate of less than one-half inch a year, taking decades to repair even small amounts of damage, according to Project AWARE. At least five nations were represented, including Colombia, one of the partner nations in the counter-drug effort in the Caribbean. Although the 964th EAACS works closely with the Colombian Air Force, events like this one present a special opportunity to integrate in a non-operations environment. “We like to stay heavily involved in community relations,” said Colombian air force Capt. Oscar Rodriguez, “We’ve been able to be much more involved with the community in Curacao [than we were in Ecuador].”

Lt. Col. Solomon E. Boxx, commander of the 964th EAACS, said the forward operating location at Curacao and the U.S. consulate have been trying to organize the cleanup for some time. “Luckily the timing was right and we had an opportunity

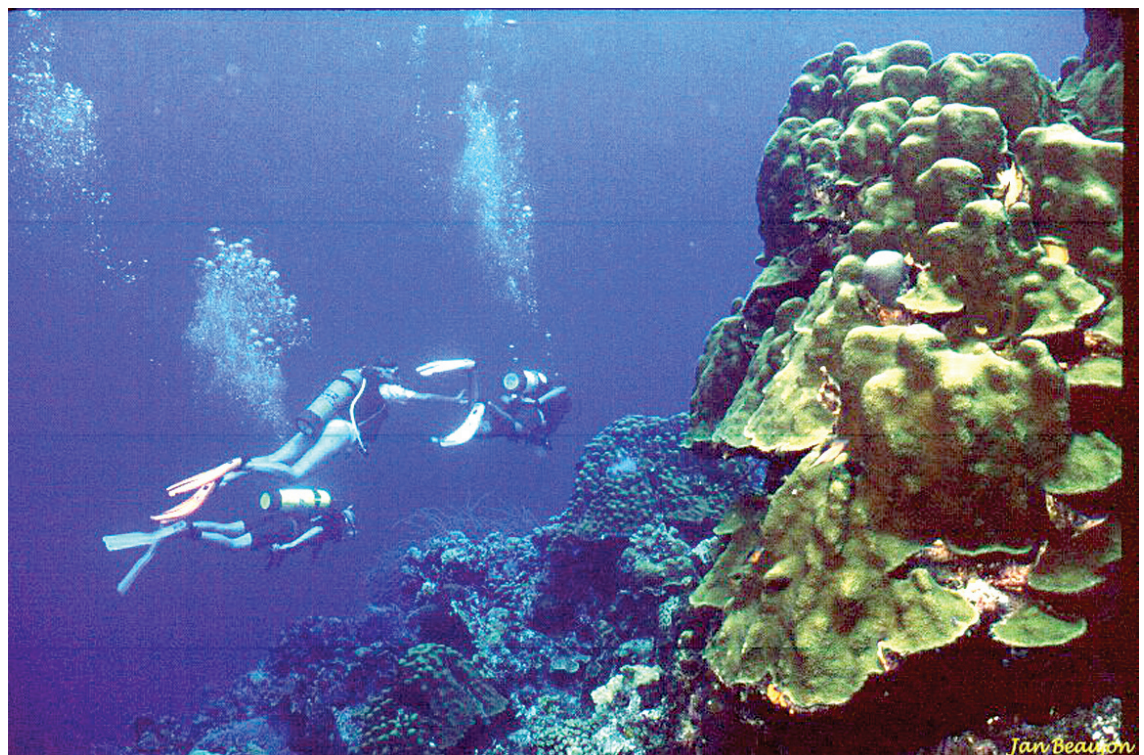
to give back to the island,” said Colonel Boxx, “Not only were we able to partner with local island agencies and build relationships, but we also raised money through the sale of T-shirts for future community relations events.”

Volunteers were broken up into specialized teams for each area of the beach. There was one group dedicated to shore cleanup, and two groups of divers for various depths of underwater waste removal. The findings ranged from animal bones to large fish hooks, as well as an array of plastic cups and bottles.

“I was surprised at how much trash we found on that short stretch of beach,” remarked air surveillance technician Senior Airman Benjamin Polish, “We must have had 20 bags from just the shore area.”

Plastic bags are a relatively common waste item found in the ocean and can cause a surprising amount of damage. Endangered sea turtles can mistake the bags for jellyfish, one of their food sources, and suffocate while trying to feed on them, according to DiveVersity sources.

“Every year more than six million tons of trash end up in the ocean,” explained Maurice Lefferts, diving instructor for DiveVersity, “If we clean up even a little bit we can save corals and sea animals.” □



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Update: Superior Court judge delays ruling on Michael Registe's attorney

BY CHUCK WILLIAMS

Making his first appearance in a Columbus courtroom since being captured in the Caribbean islands almost a year ago, Michael Jason Registe sat quietly Friday in Superior Court as the status of his defense attorney was argued before Judge Doug Pullen.

Registe, who made it on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list in connection with a 2007 double homicide at a local apartment complex, is being represented by Stacey Jackson, a former Muscogee County assistant district attorney.

Special prosecutor Laura Murphree has asked the court to remove Jackson as Registe's counsel because Jackson was involved in the case in early 2008, while Registe was still

a fugitive.

Pullen delayed a ruling until the court can hear from Deputy U.S. Marshal Patrick Ferguson, whom Jackson dealt with on search warrants issued on Registe's sister Monica Registe.

Ferguson is on military leave and was unavailable.

Pullen instructed Jackson to "meditate" about his continued involvement in the case.

"Mr. Jackson, I want you to envision yourself in a courthouse with 12 jurors and three alternates," Pullen said. "You are in a motel ... your client is in the common jail of the county we are in. Then Mr. Ferguson's on the stand, and the answer comes up that you were involved in getting him here. What is that jury

going to think? I want you to meditate on that."

Jackson, who spent eight years as a prosecutor, was represented by his law partner Richard Hagler.

After the hearing, Hagler said Pullen was planting a seed for Jackson.

"I think what he was saying was 'even if I rule in your favor, are you sure you want to do it?'" Hagler said.

Registe, 26, is accused of the July 20, 2007, execution-style deaths of Randy Newton Jr., 21, and Bryan Kilgore, 20, in Columbus. After fleeing the country, he was captured Aug. 27 in St. Maarten.

Registe was returned to Columbus on July 24 after fighting extradition for almost a year.

He remains in the Columbus jail under no bond.

The case drew national attention, with Registe making the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list, and it was featured on the popular television show "America's Most Wanted."

Friday's 1 hour and 15 minute hearing dealt solely with Jackson's status on the case. Registe was led into the 10th-

floor Government Center courtroom about 10 minutes before the hearing started. There were at least nine uniformed Muscogee County Sheriff's Office deputies in the courtroom with Registe. His hands were not cuffed, but he wore chains around his ankles.

Several members of the victims' families sat in the courtroom and met briefly with Murphree after the hearing.

At least three local news media outlets, including the Ledger-Enquirer, requested to have cameras in the courtroom, but Pullen denied the request moments before the hearing started.

The testimony focused on Jackson's involvement in the case. At the time of the murders, he was a lead prosecutor in charge of one of two trial teams in the District Attorney's office.

Chris Samra, an investigator with the District Attorney's office, testified for the prosecution.

"We talked about aspects of the crime, what happened, the fact that Mr. Registe did run and his sister purchased a

plane ticket," Samra said.

The investigator testified that Jackson told him recently that he would not represent Registe "because he had done work on the case."

The work Jackson did, according to testimony, was limited to helping Ferguson and the U.S. Marshal's office secure search warrants for phone and credit card records for Monica Registe.

"My recollection is Mr. Ferguson and I did not discuss any intimate details," Jackson said when questioned by the court. Jackson has filed a change of venue motion with the court. That motion will not be heard until the matter of Jackson's representation of Registe is settled.

Pullen made a brief comment about a possible change of venue, which would relocate the trial to another Georgia county.

"This is a case I don't think we can try in this county," Pullen said. "Most folks are convinced he's guilty. But they don't know why because the facts have not been publicized. What has been publicized is the flight pattern." □

Dutch islands' lawmakers may ditch outdated duds

Male lawmakers in the Netherlands Antilles want to step out of the European closet and into Caribbean casual, wearing clothes that are looser and more appropriate to their warm, muggy climate.

A group of legislators have proposed an amendment to a 1954 dress code that dictates they wear European-style suits, ties and jackets.

Instead, they would like to be able to opt for a Nehru suit, which has a hip-length coat with a mandarin collar, or a safari suit, usually made of cotton and featuring multiple shirt pockets.

Parliament President Pedro Attacho said Friday that legislators have approached him in recent years about changing the dress code.

"From a European eye, it might look strange, but if you have the Caribbean eye, it will be nice to see because it's something that is recognized in your own region," he said. "It's time that we appreciate and recognize our own way of dress."

Women would still be required to wear nonprovocative business casual clothes with skirts that hit at the knee.

The legislature anticipates approving the proposal next week and implementing it in September, Attacho said. It is expected to pass easily, as did a similar law in the British territory of Bermuda in July 2000 that designated Bermuda shorts as acceptable parliamentary attire.

Those who violate the Netherlands Antilles' current dress code can be asked to leave Parliament.

The Netherlands Antilles comprises the five self-governing Dutch islands of Curacao, Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. The parliament building is located on Curacao, where muggy summers prevail. □

Proposal to delay election sent to Advisory Council

WILLEMSTAD--The Council of Ministers has sent to the Advisory Council a draft law to postpone the Antillean Parliament elections scheduled for January, in light of the constitutional changes.

The proposed transitional arrangement is to buy time so that the next election instead can be for the new Parliaments of future countries Curaçao and St. Maarten that are supposed to become reality no later than October 2010.

The exact date will be determined at a Political Steering Group meeting at the end of next month. A decision on delaying the vote and extending the term of the current Antillean legislature must be made, because if elections are to be held in January they must be called three months in advance.

Should the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles take longer, Antillean Parliament

elections still will have to be called no later than September 1, 2010.

Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage said law proposals were needed for a massive transfer of Central Government tasks and authorities to the Island Territories. Because of this the Netherlands Antilles will still exist constitutionally in 2010, but will be as good as "empty," with very limited tasks and responsibilities.

As such the onus will be on the Island Governments, and the Central Government "considers it more important to give maximum space to elections in 2010 for the separate legislatures on the islands."

Curaçao opposition parties MAN and FK have spoken out against delaying the Antillean Parliament election, calling it "an undemocratic coup." □

Pantophlet appointed as new Central Committee chairman

~ *Marlin in Curaçao for talks* ~

PHILIPSBURG--National Alliance (NA) Island Councilman George Pantophlet was appointed as the new chairman of the Central Committee during Thursday's Island Council meeting. He replaces Democratic Party (DP) Island Councilman Leroy de Weever.

Pantophlet was elected by secret ballot with six votes in favour of his appointment. Three of the nine ballots cast were blank and are believed to have been from the three DP Island Council members present: Sarah Wescot-Williams, Roy Marlin and Maria Buncamper-Molanus. De Weever was absent from the meeting with notice.

Pantophlet's election was overseen by an ad hoc committee of Commissioners William Marlin, Theo Heyliger and Wescot-Williams.

The new chairman also serves as parliamentarian on behalf of NA, a post he took up in July. He was also reappointed to the Island Council last month after a six-month absence during which he was state secretary of health.

A new chairperson had to be appointed after the new

three-month-old NA/Heyliger coalition took office. DP had lost its one-seat majority in May after former party member, now independent Island Councilman Louie Laveist had pulled his support for a second time. Subsequently, Public Works Commissioner Theo Heyliger went independent too by resigning from DP.

Heyliger signed the Emilio Wilson Park Declaration to form a new government with NA Leader, now Commissioner William Marlin on June 6, ushering in a change in government and ending a nearly ten-year uninterrupted term of DP.

Thursday's meeting also had to deal with changes in the statutes of three government-owned companies and one foundation to bring these in line with the new Corporate Governance Code. However, the meeting was adjourned until next Thursday at 10:00am because of Commissioner Marlin's schedule.

Meetings in Curaçao Marlin left for Curaçao yesterday afternoon, where he will meet with Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage, Finance Minister Ersilia de Lanooy and Curaçao Constitutional

Affairs Commissioner Zita Jesus-Leito (PAR) about providing services to country St. Maarten when it is established next year.

He and Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman will discuss the joint Central Bank for St. Maarten and Curaçao with Jesus-Leito. They will also iron out agreements between the two islands for services St. Maarten may not have yet established when it becomes a country.

Marlin and Blackman met with the prime minister immediately after arriving in Curaçao, Thursday night, to discuss changes in the financial agreements that exist between the Central Government and St. Maarten in particular, for Turnover Tax (TOT). The aim of the meeting is for St. Maarten to get more money from the TOT paid here, during this transition period to country status. Similar discussions will be held with the finance minister this morning.

The two commissioners head to the Netherlands from Curaçao this evening, for talks about constitutional affairs with Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten. □

Richards calls for political maturity in Island Council

PHILIPSBURG--Members of the Island Council must exercise political maturity in debates and not be intolerant of opposing views as St. Maarten seeks to become a country within the Kingdom, Lt. Governor and Island Council Chairman Franklyn Richards said Thursday. He sent a letter to all members this week imploring them to adhere to the rules of order.

There has been much talk about the outburst of Leader of Government Commissioner William Marlin in Monday's Island Council meeting in which he told members of the Democratic Party (DP) to "shut up and go home" during deliberations on the economic impact of the labour permit policy for foreign workers.

The reprimand, which was expressed several times in the meeting, did not sit well with DP members who categorised it as dictatorial.

Speaking at the opening of Thursday's Island Council meeting, Richards said no faction or party represented in the council was exempt from his call for more political maturity.

"It cannot be so that intolerance of opposing views is condoned and that an image of lack of political maturity is left behind in the minds of the public whenever they choose to listen to their elected officials during public meetings."

Aspects of etiquette and adherence to the Islands Regulation of the Netherlands Antilles ERNA should never be too far from the mind in public debates, he added.

"We ought to lead by example, thereby inspiring younger generations of people's

representatives to want to become legislators in a new St. Maarten. We have no choice but to strive to attain that level of understanding of political maturity – a level of understanding embodied in our strict application of rules of order, in even the most trying moments," he said. He said this kind of posturing too often displayed in the Council could also be construed as a "blatant disregard for proper governance or, even worse, an apparent rejection of good governance." It is in the best interest of the island's people for their representatives to take some time to reflect on how they want to proceed in becoming parliamentarians and ministers of country St. Maarten, he said.

"I sincerely believe that it would benefit good governance, transparency in government, and an organized continuation of the daily running of government affairs, if we – again, collectively – decide on how we are to conduct ourselves. Well construed debate is something to be encouraged, not ridiculed. A healthy debate is, nowadays, a common practice within the framework of good governance."

Participation by all is a key cornerstone of good governance and could be either direct or through legitimate intermediate institutions or representatives such as the council members, he continued.

"Participation needs to be informed and organised. This means freedom of expression on the one hand and an organised debate on the other hand. ... Transparency means that decisions taken and their enforcement are done in a manner that follows rules and regulations. It also means that information is freely

available within the limits of the law."

The Island Council remains accountable to the public and to community stakeholders. Citizens have a right to hear all sides of a debate in a manner becoming to elected representatives of the people, even they are in disagreement with government, he said.

Good governance entails the government carrying out policies in a democratic, just, and systematic manner, delivering results that are in the general interest. "We can speak of a just policy and just governance when government takes into consideration legally prescribed regulations and guidelines pertaining to good governance, such as the principles of good governance, principles of equality, and principles of integrity," the Lt. Governor said.

"My appeal to you, all of you, members of the Island Council, is that we take responsibilities seriously. Let us think before we speak, let us contemplate before acting. Opposing views ought not to be a reason for deficiencies in 'politesse,' no matter what the circumstance," he said, adding that the Island Council would be judged by history on the merits of how well it prepared for country status. "Let us rise to the occasion; make the people of St. Maarten proud."

He concluded by asking members for their "complete and unequivocal support and understanding" for adherence to the rules of order.

DP Island Councilman Sarah Wescot-Williams requested that Richards send copies of his speech to members of the council as a supplement to his letter of August 12, because more aspects of proper conduct were covered in it. □

Jetblue's All You Can Jet Pass. Unlimited Flying in the Fall

Jetblue has announced a whopper of a flying deal! The All-You-Can-Jet-Pass allows for unlimited travel between September 8 and October 8 for \$599. There are no black out dates, but there is a three day advanced booking restriction.

Highlights

*Each pass purchase comes with thirty five TrueBlue points

*Passes can only be booked by calling 1-800-JETBLUE.

*No fee for reservations changes made up to three days. \$100 for cancellations and no-shows after two days.

*Passes are non-transferable and non-refundable.

*Applies to domestic and international travel.

Why is this fare so low? The All-You-Can-Jet-Pass is offered during a typical low season for the airline. Jetblue is known for it's innovative and affordable approach to travel and offering passengers the flexibility of unlimited flying for a month, attests to Jetblue's rock star's status. The airline has boosted its international destinations, landing in Montego Bay, St. Maarten, Dominica Republic, Aruba, Bogota and Nassau. October will bring new destinations of Barbados, St. Lucia and Kingston, Jamaica.

"I think it's a great idea," comments business traveler Dean, "My only concern is does it cover all the taxes?" □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks drop as investors worry about consumers



FILE - In this July 31, 2009 file photo, customers are seen in the main entrance of the new JCPenney store in the Manhattan Mall during the grand opening in New York. J.C. Penney Co. is reporting second-quarter results Friday, Aug. 14, 2009, that roughly broke even from a year ago, beating Wall Street expectations as the department store retailer reaps benefits from cost-cutting moves.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, file)

By SARA LEPRO,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The fear on Wall Street is that nervous consumers are going to short-circuit the economic recovery. Stocks fell sharply Friday, taking the major indexes down about 1 percent, after investors were disappointed by media reports that the Reuters/University of Michigan index of consumer sentiment fell significantly short of expectations for the first part of August. That's a sign consumers may well keep cutting back their spending as they worry about losing their jobs. Consumer spending is crucial for the economy to emerge from recession as it accounts for two-thirds of all U.S. economic activity. The discouraging reading came a day after the Commerce Department reported an unexpected decline in retail sales. Investors were able to shake that off, but Friday's consumer sentiment number had them bailing out of stocks, jeopardizing a summer rally that had lifted the Standard & Poor's 500 index more than

15 percent in about a month. Still, the indexes finished well off their lows of the day, a sign that the mood on Wall Street isn't all that grim, and light volume likely skewed price changes. Investors also sold off oil and other commodities and moved their money into the relative safety of the dollar and government bonds. Treasury prices jumped, sending their yields lower, while the dollar rose against other major currencies. After rallying for months on expectations of an economic recovery, investors are worried that they have been too optimistic, given consumers' continuing reluctance to spend. "Valuations were beginning to price in a sunnier future, but not all the data is sunny yet," said Lawrence Creatura, portfolio manager at Federated Clover Capital Advisors, referring to stock prices. "There is still going to be a tug of war between good news and bad news as we move through the coming months." According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones

industrial average fell 76.79, or 0.8 percent, to 9,321.40 after falling as much as 165 points after the consumer sentiment survey was released.

The S&P 500 index fell 8.64, or 0.9 percent, to 1,004.09, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 23.83, or 1.2 percent, to 1,985.52.

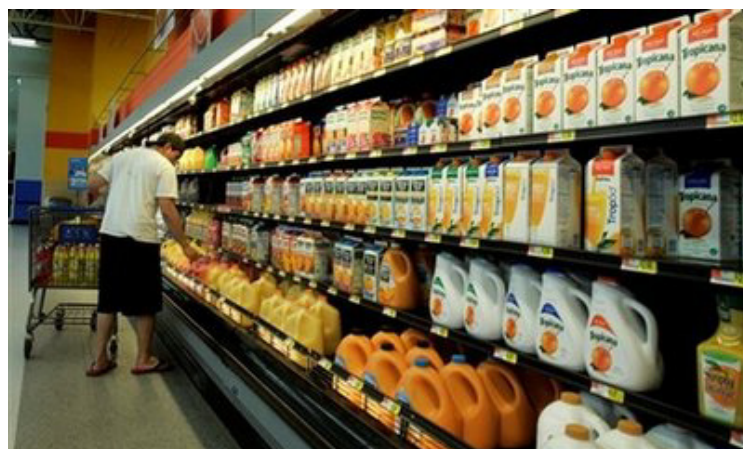
The drop erased the market's advance of the last two days, and gave the big indexes their first losing week after four weeks of gains. The Dow was down 0.5 percent for the week, while the S&P 500 index fell 0.6 percent and the Nasdaq was off 0.7 percent.

About five stocks fell for every two that rose Friday on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a light 1.09 billion shares. Light volume can exaggerate the market's movements.

In other trading, the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 11.29, or 2 percent, to 563.90.

Bond prices rose sharply. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.57 percent from 3.62 percent late Thursday. The drop in the 10-year yield is good news for consumers because it is closely tied to interest rates on mortgages and other loans.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, gold and other metals prices fell, while oil prices sank \$3.01 to \$67.51 a barrel. Stocks have had a rocky few days, falling in the early part of the week amid anxiety over what the Federal Reserve would say about the economy at the end of a two-day policy meeting. The market turned higher on Wednesday after the Fed reassured investors with a more positive stance on the economy than in the past. □



In this Aug. 11, 2009 photo, a shopper peruses the orange juice aisle at Wal-Mart, in Tallahassee, Fla. Consumer prices were flat in July as energy costs retreated following a big surge in June.

(AP Photo/Phil Coale)

Consumer prices flat in July as energy retreats

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Consumer prices were flat in July as energy costs retreated following a big surge in June. Over the past 12 months, prices dropped the most in nearly six decades as the recession and lower energy costs kept a lid on inflation. The Labor Department said Friday that consumer prices showed no change in July, in line with analysts' expectations and far below the 0.7 percent jump in June.

Prices fell 2.1 percent over the past 12 months, the biggest annual decline since a similar drop in the period ending in January 1950. Most of the past year's decline reflects energy prices falling 28.1 percent since peaking in July 2008.

Some economists have expressed concerns that the economy could be headed toward a dangerous period of falling prices, something the U.S. has not experienced since the Great Depression of the 1930s. However, most analysts believe the Federal Reserve has responded aggressively enough to battle the current downturn and prevent outright deflation.

But on Wall Street, stocks fell sharply Friday as investors were disappointed by reports that the Reuters/University of Michigan index of consumer sentiment fell sharply in the first part of this month. Consumer spending is crucial for the economy to emerge from recession as it accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity. The Dow Jones industrial average lost about 125 points in morning trading, and broader indices also fell.

The Fed on Friday said that production from the nation's factories, mines and utilities rose in July for the first time in nine months, driven by increased output from auto companies. Industrial production rose 0.5 percent in July, better than the 0.3 percent gain economists expected. Production of motor vehicles and parts rose 20.1 percent, after falling for three straight months. The Fed wrapped up a two-day policy meeting on Wednesday with a pledge to continue keeping interest rates low for an extended period. Most analysts don't expect the first Fed rate increases until next year after the unemployment rate peaks. Core inflation, which excludes energy and food, showed a small 0.1 percent rise in July, matching economists' forecasts and down from a 0.2 percent rise in June. Over the past 12 months, core inflation is up 1.5 percent, right in the Fed's comfort zone for price increases. □

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Confucius could help relations between US, China

By Anne Wu

Cambridge, Mass. — Since President Obama took office, Chinese-US relations have enjoyed a honeymoon period. This has led many to assert that the US and China will be able to shoulder the troubled world together, perhaps even forming their own Group of Two (G-2).

While such an arrangement would bring economic and strategic benefits, we should not view the relationship through a relatively simplistic and overly ambitious “G-2” prism, where we are perceived as allied saviors. The more realistic approach to handling the Chinese-US relationship is using the Confucian “middle way.”

To use the middle way essentially means that Washington and Beijing should not be too optimistic, or even too pessimistic, about their relations. Nor should they overestimate their joint capacity in shaping the world order. Instead, they should value collaboration, but also prepare for deviations. The guiding principle of this middle way is to always solve problems in a peaceful, mutually respectful, and pragmatic manner.

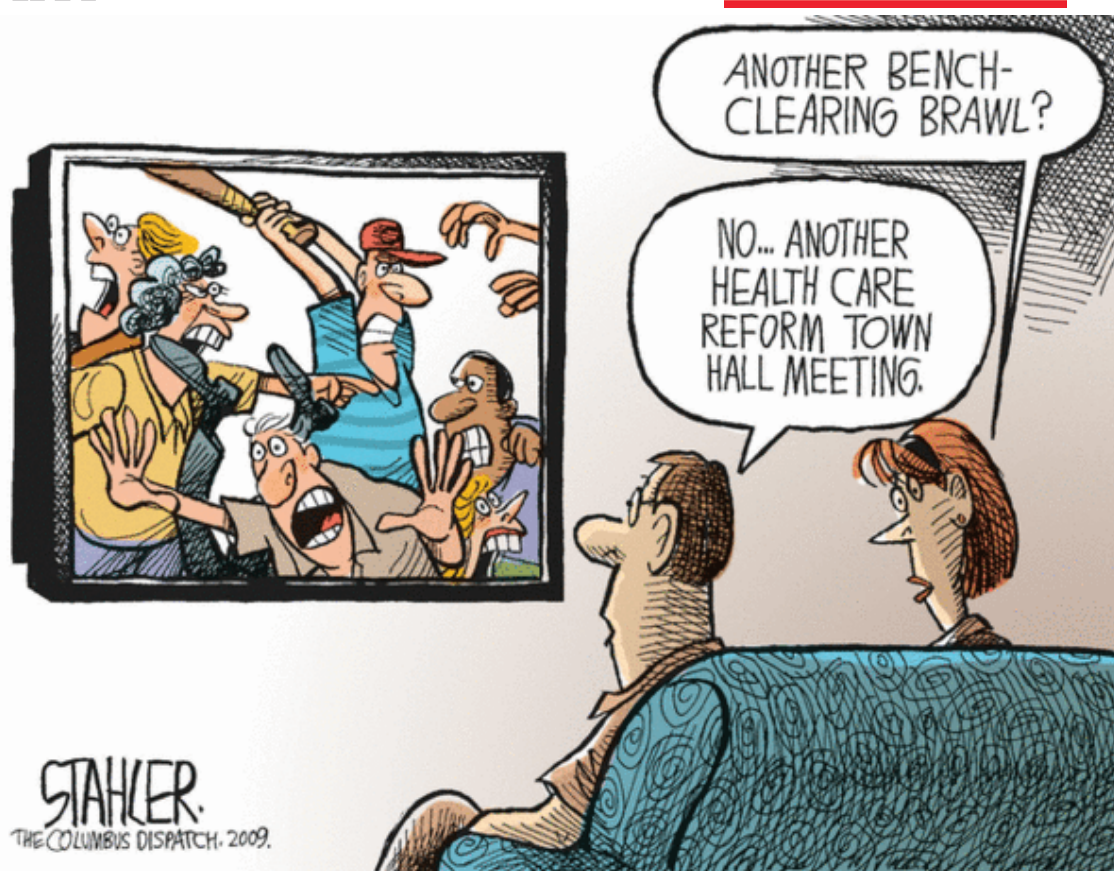
China learned about the wisdom of letting go of an egocentric world view a long time ago: The Chinese character for the word “China” literally means middle kingdom. Ancient Chinese believed China to be the center of the world and their emperor to be the highest authority on earth, until the arrival of the Western civilization at the beginning of the 18th century made them realize that they shared the responsibilities of the world.

Today, both the US and China better understand that the environment in which they operate is in many ways determined by the conditions created by numerous other players.

Putting the old wine of unipolar politics into a new bottle and calling it G-2 is not a practical solution for building a multipolar world. Even if a G-2 model were possible, there remains such a huge gap between China and the US that it would require an uneven sharing of responsibilities by the two countries.

For instance, China’s per capita gross domestic product is currently just one-eighth that of the US. Thus, some argue that China’s biggest responsibility to the world is to simply remain stable and feed its 1.3 billion people, one-fifth of the world.

Also, some see Washington’s demands on Beijing as attempts to use China as a means to an end, rather than as an equal partner. For example, following the China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue, a top newspaper in Singapore claimed that “China has been G2’ed,” and a Japanese daily commented that the US pledge to pass along the engine of the global economy to China “was simply a tactic of expediency.” G-2 or not, two heads are better than one. □



Unwinnable War?

Pat Buchanan

Creators Syndicate —

“Taliban Are Winning: U.S. Commander in Afghanistan Warns of Rising Casualties.” Thus ran the startling headline on the front-page of The Wall Street Journal. The lead paragraph ran thus:

“The Taliban have gained the upper hand in Afghanistan, the top American commander there said, forcing the U.S. to change its strategy in the eight-year-old conflict by increasing the number of troops in heavily populated areas like the volatile southern city of Kandahar, the insurgency’s spiritual home.”

Source for the story: Gen. Stanley McChrystal himself.

The general’s spokesman in Kabul was swift to separate him from that headline and lead.

They “go too far,” he said: The general does not believe the Taliban are winning or “gaining the upper hand.”

Nevertheless, in the eighth year of America’s war, the newly arrived field commander concedes that U.S. casualties, now at record levels, will continue to be high or go higher, and that our primary mission is no longer to run down and kill Taliban but to defend the Afghan population.

What went wrong?

Though U.S. force levels are higher than ever, the U.S.

military situation is worse than ever. Though President Karzai is expected to win reelection, he is regarded as the ineffectual head of a corrupt regime. Though we have trained an Afghan army and police force of 220,000, twice that number are now needed. The Taliban are operating not only in the east, but in the north and west, and are taking control of the capital of the south, Kandahar.

NATO’s response to Obama’s request for more troops has been pathetic.

Europeans want to draw down the troops already sent. And Western opinion has soured on the war.

A poll commissioned by The Independent found 52 percent of Britons wanting to pull out and 58 percent believing the war is “unwinnable.”

U.S. polls, too, have turned upside down.

A CBS-New York Times survey in late July found 33 percent saying the war was going well and 57 percent saying it was going badly or very badly. In a CNN poll in early August, Americans, by 54 percent to 41 percent, said they oppose the Afghan war that almost all Americans favored after 9-11 and Obama said in 2008 was the right war for America to fight.

The president is now approaching a decision that may prove as fateful for him

and his country as was the one made by Lyndon Johnson to send the Marines ashore at Da Nang in December 1965.

Obama confronts a two-part question:

If, after eight years of fighting, the Taliban is stronger, more capable and closer to victory than it has ever been, what will it cost in additional U.S. troops, casualties, years and billions to turn this around? And what is so vital to us in that wilderness land worth another eight years of fighting, bleeding and dying, other than averting the humiliation of another American defeat?

From Secretary Gates to Gen. Petraeus, U.S. military and political leaders have been unanimous that the Afghan war does not lend itself to a military victory. Unfortunately, the Taliban does seem to believe in a military victory and triumphal return to power, and imposing upon the United States the same kind of defeat their fathers imposed upon the Soviet Union.

Whatever we may say of them, Taliban fighters have shown a greater willingness to die for a country free of us Americans than our Afghan allies have shown to die for the future we Americans envision for them. In days, McChrystal is to provide the president with an assessment of what will be required for America to prevail. □

These are thrilling times for Jacko impersonators



This Aug. 7, 2009 photo shows Frederick Henry preparing for a performance as a Michael Jackson impersonator during American Superstars at the Stratosphere Casino Hotel in Las Vegas.

(AP Photo/Isaac Brekken)

By MICHELLE RINDELS,
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Michael Jackson impersonator Frederick Henry had to go overseas to find steady work in recent years as the pop star's behavior got weirder and weirder. Many of his colleagues quit the business altogether.

But in the past few weeks, Henry's act at the Stratosphere in Las Vegas has become so hot that the hotel-casino had to beef up security to keep fans from swarming him after the show.

"It's been crazy," Henry said. "But it's all in fun — they're showing love."

The King of Pop's death has had an electrifying effect on business for those who make their living imitating Jackson in all his moonwalking, crotch-grabbing, tee-heeing glory.

One club proprietor hopes to launch a permanent Jackson show by the star's birthday in late August, and booking agents have seen surges in applications from would-be impersonators and calls for their services.

In a town in which guys made up like Elvis will marry you, serve as emcee at your business conference or sing "Viva Las Vegas" at your private party, Royal Talent, a booking agency for impersonators, said its Michael Jackson act is now the most requested.

Kenny Wizz, who has played the King of Pop since 1984, said: "It's a whole other ballgame. It's like wildfire now."

The Stratosphere recently revamped its billboard and magazine ads for its American Superstars show to feature only Jackson, even though the show includes five performers impersonating other music celebrities.

New Orleans rapper sentenced to life in prison

By MARY FOSTER,
Associated Press Writer

GRETN, La. — Clad in an orange jail jumpsuit and with shackles on his hands and ankles, rapper Corey "C-Murder" Miller stood silently as he was sentenced to life in prison on Friday for the shooting death of a teenager in 2002.

District Judge Hans Liljeberg gave Miller the mandatory life sentence, days after a jury convicted the rapper of second-degree murder.

At least 20 uniformed officers surrounded the 38-year-old Miller as he shuffled into court and remained until he was led back to jail.

Miller was convicted of shooting 16-year-

old fan Steve Thomas at a now-closed nightclub in Harvey after a confrontation during a rap contest.

It was the second time that a jury convicted Miller in the case, but a 2003 conviction was overturned.

Before he handed down the sentence, the judge denied a request by Miller's attorney Ron Rakosky for a new trial. Then Thomas' parents took the stand to testify about the damage the murder had done to them.

"We still cry every day for our baby," Dolores Thomas said, weeping. "We never got to see him graduate, go to the prom, get married. We won't have a grandchild to love."

Henry became a full-time Jackson impersonator in 1995 and took the act overseas during Jackson's later years. Things were tough then in the United States, Henry said, as the celebrity battled allegations of child molestation.

Everything changed when Jackson died June 25.

"Now is the time to shine again," Henry told fellow Jackson impersonators through a blog on MySpace. "It's been a long time for some of us Michaels to survive."

They responded with pledges to step up their acts, practice harder and sing better out of respect for the star and his fans all over the world.

Impersonators aren't the only ones hoping to profit from the outpouring of fan interest after the singer's death. A probate judge has signed off on a movie deal, and Jackson's estate want to put trading cards, calendars and other memorabilia on the market.

Some say Jackson's estate could be as lucrative as Elvis Presley's, which earned \$55 million last year.

A recent show at Stratosphere went on with typical Vegas kitsch. A sweaty Elvis wearing gold and sequins serenaded a middle-aged audience member, and fans watched as a scantily clad Britney Spears impersonator tousled a man's hair. The tension peaked when the lights dropped and "Billie Jean" came on.

Out of a cloud of stage fog and spotlights, Michael Jackson materialized in a red jacket, white glove and thick eyeliner. Fans hooted as he did the moonwalk. They sang along on some of the choruses. They were enthralled when he descended from the stage and summoned a 10-year-old girl to dance with him as he sang in a soft falsetto.

Colleen, Fremont and Alex Courson of Dallas said they came to see both Jackson and Elvis and agreed both stars have Vegas staying power.

"Michael will be there just as long as Elvis," Colleen Courson said.

Lisa Bannock, 48, of Aurora, Colo., sat in the front row at the Stratosphere show and touched the Jackson lookalike's hand. "He was very good — he knew all the moves," she said.

After the show, Henry posed for photos with fans, wearing a bandanna over his face just as the real Jackson did. Henry had taken off some of his chalky makeup and stripped away the medical tape that gives him a thin nose like Jackson's surgically altered one.

Fourteen years after getting his start as a "Mike," Henry said he never gets tired of performing as "the greatest entertainer that ever lived." He also has a "big, fat contract" at the Stratosphere.

"I love it. I love it!" he said. "Plus, the check's nice." □



FILE - In this Feb. 19, 2008 file photo, singer Bobby Brown is seen outside the Brockton District Court in Brockton, Mass.

(AP Photo/Robert E. Klein, File)

Arrest warrant issued in Mass. for Bobby Brown

CANTON, Mass. — An arrest warrant has been issued for Bobby Brown after he failed to appear in a Massachusetts court on a contempt complaint.

Norfolk Judge Christina Harms ordered Brown arrested the next time the singer is in Massachusetts. He failed to appear at a June 29 hearing.

The Boston Herald reports that Brown has fallen \$45,000 behind in child support payments for the two teenage children he had with former girlfriend Kim Ward.

A phone message was left for Brown's lawyer in Atlanta.

The 40-year-old Brown is a Boston native and ex-husband of Whitney Houston. He is supposed to pay \$5,000 in child support per month for the children.

Brown was jailed for four days in 2007 for failing to make the payments. □



FILE - In this Oct. 24, 2006 file photo, Corey Miller, also known as C-Murder, is seen in this undated police handout file photo.

(AP Photo/Police photo, File)

Thomas's father, George Thomas, said holding in the pain of his son's murder led to a heart attack which left him in intensive care for four months. Then he turned to address the Miller family and friends in the courtroom directly.

"I'm sorry for you, but you can see him," he said. "You can talk to him. What do we have? All we can look at are photos and a grave."

Miller, who had smiled at his family earlier, stared stoically ahead during the Thomas testimony.

In Louisiana the sentence does not allow probation or parole.

Following the sentencing, the judge granted a motion for appeal. □

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slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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President Barack Obama speaks at a town hall meeting on health care at a hanger at Gallatin Airfield in Belgrade, Mont. Friday, Aug. 14, 2009.

Associated Press

Obama denounces emphasis on health care protests

LIZ SIDOTI

Associated Press Writer

BELGRADE, Montana (AP) — Trying to lower the temperature of the health care fight, President Barack Obama on Friday denounced news media emphasis on angry protesters at town hall meetings.

Obama ventured west for the latest of his own town hall-style events, fielding polite but occasionally tough questions — one man declaring the president couldn't pay for his plan without raising taxes. Tieless and rolling up his sleeves in campaign mode, Obama pitched his overhaul plan to a crowd in an airport hangar near Bozeman.

The president didn't deny that there have been angry outbursts by foes of his plan at town halls featuring Democratic lawmakers this month. But he said that was hardly the whole story. "TV loves a ruckus," Obama said. "What you haven't seen on TV and what makes me proud are the many constructive meetings going on all over the country."

While hundreds demonstrated outside, there was no sign of protesters on the airstrip where Air Force One landed or inside the hangar. Obama has another town hall Saturday in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Friday's crowd, estimated by the White House at about 1,300 people, was mostly supportive, cheering Obama frequently, though he did get a few pointed questions. One came from Randy Rathie, who called himself "a proud NRA member," referring to the National Rifle Association, and said he got most of his news

from cable TV.

"You can't tell us how you're going to pay for this," Rathie said of Obama's health care overhaul. "The only way you're going to get that money is raise our taxes."

"You are absolutely right," Obama said. "I can't cover another 46 million people for free. I can't do that. We're going to have to find money from somewhere."

He noted a congressional estimate that legislation being considered in the Senate could cost \$800 billion to \$900 billion over 10 years.

Obama has proposed higher taxes for families earning more than \$250,000 a year. He said there were also other ways to find money, including streamlining the system and eliminating what he said were subsidies to insurance companies.

"But your point is well-taken," Obama said. "I appreciate your question and the respectful way you asked it."

Later, Rathie told CNN he was "well-impressed" with how Obama handled his question. "Now he's given me his word, personally, that he's not going to raise my taxes," Rathie said, but at the same time, "they're trying to put in a program that they don't even understand."

Another participant, who said his job was selling health-insurance policies, asked Obama why he had changed his strategy from one of reaching out to insurance companies to "vilifying" them.

"My intent is not to vilify insurance companies," Obama said.

Continued on Page B4

Manson follower known as 'Squeaky' out of prison

ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)

— Three decades after basking in the national spotlight as "Squeaky" the infamous Charles Manson disciple who tried to assassinate President Gerald Ford, the now 60-year-old woman slipped quietly out of a federal prison Friday after being released on parole.

Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme eluded the media as she left Fort Worth's Federal Medical Center Carswell in one of the many cars streaming in and out of the front gate Friday morning.

She previously refused interview requests, and prison officials would not say where she planned to live or what she planned to do after more than 30 years behind bars.

Continued on Page B3



In this Nov. 25, 1975 file photo, Lynette Fromme sits in a U.S. Marshal's auto in Sacramento, Calif. Fromme, the Charles Manson follower convicted of trying to assassinate President Gerald Ford, was released Friday, Aug. 14, 2009 from a Texas prison hospital after more than three decades behind bars, a prison official said.

Associated Press



A hose used to steal gasoline is placed on the flatbed of a federal government truck after it was seized inside a small shack where a Pemex gas pipeline was being tapped on the outskirts of Tijuana, Mexico, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009.

Associated Press

Mexico nabs gas thieves; U.S. refineries implicated

JOHN PORRETTO

MARTHA MENDOZA

Associated Press Writers

MEXICO CITY (AP) — They bleed the fuel lines just about anywhere, drug cartel members and other criminals, sucking millions of dollars of Mexican petroleum from makeshift taps hidden in sheds or on remote desert stretches, with thousands of gallons ending up in U.S. refineries.

Continued on Page B6

Special Olympians, family celebrate Eunice Shriver

RUSSELL CONTRERAS

Associated Press Writer

HYANNIS, Massachusetts (AP) — Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the presidential sister who founded the Special Olympics, was celebrated Friday at a funeral Mass as a fearless warrior for the voiceless who changed the world for millions and an unconventional woman who smoked Cuban cigars and played tackle football. “She was scary smart and not afraid to show it,” Maria Shriver said of her mother, who died Tuesday at age 88. “If she were here today ... she would pound this podium ... and ask each of you what you have done today to better the world.” The Special Olympics torch led a procession for Shriver past thousands of onlookers who lined the streets outside St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church as friends, family and athletes from the movement she founded in 1968 gathered for the private service.

Shriver’s only living brother, Sen. Edward Kennedy, who

has been battling brain cancer, did not attend the funeral.

Maria Shriver, her husband, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and other family members carried the casket into the church, the same place where the two were married 23 years earlier.

Standing with her four brothers during her eulogy, Maria Shriver said her “Mummy” liked to hang with the guys, but all her heroes — expect her brother, Jack — were women. She said she was grateful her mother’s life and work were getting so much attention, particularly for young women to see a role model of a woman who never conformed to what society might have wanted. “Mummy wore men’s pants, smoked Cuban cigars and she played tackle football,” she said. “Our mother never rested, she never stopped. She was momentum on wheels.”

Loretta Claiborne, a former Special Olympian



Members of the Shriver family, including Anthony Shriver, left, his sister Maria, front center, her husband California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, rear center, and Tim Shriver, right of his sister Maria, bear the casket of Eunice Kennedy Shriver into Saint Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church in the Hyannis section of Barnstable, Mass., Friday, Aug. 14, 2009. Shriver, the sister of President John F. Kennedy and Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, died Tuesday morning at Cape Cod Hospital at age 88.

athlete and longtime friend of Shriver’s, delivered welcoming remarks at the service, also attended by Vice President Joe Biden, Oprah Winfrey, Stevie Wonder, Jon Bon Jovi and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick.

“She was chosen to have a life to serve others, the weakest of the weak, the castaways, the throwaways of society, at the time they would say the mentally retarded, and I am one of those people,” Claiborne said.

Shriver’s 19 grandchildren each offered prayers — giving thanks to her for teaching them to sail, for insisting girls are equal to boys, and for the lesson of helping those in need. The two-hour service wrapped up with a rousing rendition of “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

Shriver’s husband, R. Sargent Shriver, a 1972 vice presidential candidate, who has Alzheimer’s disease, was also at the service. Maria Shriver said

her father never minded when her mother’s hair was unkempt or she beat him in a game of tennis.

“He let her rip and he let roar and he loved everything about her,” she said.

The crowds of people outside, including residents, tourists and Special Olympians, were largely silent for the procession as the church bell rang and a lone bagpipe whined. After the Mass, many in the crowd clapped as family members carried the casket out of the church while others snapped photos.

She was buried at the St. Francis Xavier parish cemetery in nearby Centerville after a brief private graveside service.

Mourners lit candles from the Special Olympics torch, and her son, Tim, the chairman of Special Olympics International, called forward the athletes who were there to be nearer to the casket.

Three Irish musicians who were sent to the service by Bono led the group

Associated Press
in singing Bob Dylan’s “Forever Young.”

The opening funeral procession was led by law enforcers and athletes, including Marguerite Heffernan, of Harwich, a Special Olympian in 1968, and her 27-year-old son Shawn, from Orleans, who carried the Special Olympics torch.

“It was great,” said Shawn Heffernan, who has won 49 swimming medals. “I’d done it before, but this was different.”

His mother held her swimming medals from 1971 and recalled the impact Shriver had made on their lives.

“She helped open doors,” she said. “We gained freedom from hiding.” □

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Photo by Diane Keijzer



SQUEAKY

Continued from Page B1

It was a far cry from her antics that captivated the nation's attention in the 1970s: shaving her red hair and carving an "X" into her forehead after Manson was convicted for orchestrating a mass murder, wearing a red robe when she pulled a gun on Ford, and being carried into her trial courtroom by marshals when she refused to walk.

In September 1975, Fromme pushed through a crowd, drew a semiautomatic .45-caliber pistol from a thigh holster and pointed it at Ford, who was shaking hands with well-wishers while walking to the California State Capitol in Sacramento. Secret Service agents grabbed her and the gun, and Ford was unhurt.

Fromme was a college student before joining Manson's "family," where she reportedly got her nickname because of her voice. She was never implicated in the 1969 murders of actress Sharon Tate and eight others, for which Manson is serving a life term in Corcoran State Prison in California. By many accounts, Fromme took over the group after that because Manson had always relied on her.

During her own trial, Fromme either refused to attend or had outbursts. Her attorney John Virga argued that she simply wanted to call attention to environmental issues and Manson's case and never meant to kill Ford. A few bullets were in the gun but not in the chamber.

"She was very articulate and soft-spoken ... but you could see a noticeable change in her demeanor when you mentioned Manson," Virga told The Associated Press on Friday. "I think she was an example of a young woman who was led astray and got caught up in someone she shouldn't have."

Fromme was convicted and got a life term, becoming the first person sentenced under a special federal law covering assaults on U.S. presidents, a statute enacted after President John F. Kennedy's 1963 assassination.

She later was sentenced to 15 years in prison, which was tacked onto her life term for threats against the president,

after escaping in 1987 from a women's prison in West Virginia. She was recaptured two days later a few miles away after a massive search. Fromme had said she escaped to be closer to Manson after hearing rumors that he was dying.

Fromme was granted parole in July 2008 for "good conduct time" but was not released until Friday because of the additional time for her escape, prison officials said.

She will be on supervised release for two years, where general conditions include reporting regularly to a parole officer, not associating with criminals or owning guns or leaving the area, said Tom Hutchison, a U.S. Parole Commission spokesman. He declined to say where Fromme will live or if she will have to meet additional conditions sometimes imposed on parolees, depending on their crimes.

It's unclear if Fromme will return to California. Some of her relatives who still live there did not immediately return calls to The AP on Friday. Virga, who has not communicated with Fromme since the trial, said relatives did not attend the trial but that Fromme always spoke highly of her mother and siblings.

Fromme had been at the Fort Worth prison since 1998. The facility specializes in providing medical and mental health services to female offenders and also has a maximum-security unit, a minimum-security camp and an area for low-security inmates, said Carswell spokeswoman Dr. Maria Douglas, declining to say where Fromme had been housed.

Prison officials previously said she was placed in the maximum-security unit for inmates who have escaped or been involved in assaults.

Fromme started out at the West Virginia prison, then was transferred to the prison at Pleasanton, California, in 1978 after officials said she had become a "model inmate." But she was sent back to West Virginia in 1979 as punishment for hitting another inmate with a hammer while the two tended a garden on the prison grounds. She later was moved to Lexington, Kentucky, and

then to Marianna, Florida.

Fromme declined a recent interview request from The AP.

In 2005, Fromme responded to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's interview request with a 35-line letter in elegant cursive handwriting, the newspaper reported. At the time she had not sought release, although she became eligible for parole in 1985.

"I stood up and waved a gun (at Ford) for a reason," she wrote. "I was so relieved not to have to shoot it, but, in truth, I came to get life. Not just my life but clean air, healthy water and respect for creatures and creation." □



U.S. Marine Cpl. Russell walks through a dried up poppy field while on a joint clearance mission with Afghan National Army soldiers to flush Taliban insurgents from the town of Dahaneh, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

Associated Press

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HEALTH CARE

Continued from Page B1

"I say, 'Let's work with the existing system.'" But he said some bad practices of insurance companies "are tough on people" and "have to change," including such things as denying coverage for pre-existing conditions. It's difficult, he said, to achieve true reform "unless we've got everybody covered."

The president appeared ready to campaign. He showed up in a suit, but no tie. As he began to take questions, he took off his coat and rolled up his sleeves. "I know there's been a lot of attention paid to some of the town hall meetings that are going on around the country, especially when tempers flare," Obama said. He said that what wasn't being shown were the gatherings in which people "are coming

together and having a civil, honest, often difficult conversation about how we can improve the system."

Obama aimed part of his pitch at Americans who already have health insurance.

"Most of us have insurance, and most of us think, knock on wood, and think: 'I'm going to stay healthy,'" Obama said.

He cited examples in which people have lost their insurance, including when going from job to job and because of pre-existing conditions.

Obama made his latest appearance as a prominently, John Podesta, said the high-decibel attacks are designed to destroy his presidency rather than merely defeat health care legislation.

At a breakfast with reporters in Washington, Podesta predicted such tactics would backfire on Republicans and give the president a chance to "capture the center of the debate."

Podesta, who heads the Center for American Progress and played a key role in last winter's presidential

transition, said the time for bipartisan negotiations in the Senate is drawing to a close. When lawmakers return in September, he said, "either they have to have a deal or he (Obama) has to say, 'This is what it is.'"

Underscoring the fire around the issue, Obama was met in Montana by TV and print advertisements from a group called Conservatives for Patients' Rights urging opposition to a new public insurance plan supported by Obama that would compete with private insurers.

The American College of Surgeons also weighed in by criticizing comments Obama made in New Hampshire and at a news conference last month suggesting that doctors might be motivated by profit to amputate a diabetic's foot or remove a child's tonsils.

And Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele issued a statement, saying: "Americans simply aren't buying his efforts to repackage his government-run experiment." □

Consumer agency is blocked from some import data

By CHRISTINE SIMMONS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Despite the growing number of imports, the government's product safety agency has no access to certain customs information that could help prevent the sale of unsafe products, congressional investigators say.

A report released Friday by the Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative arm, looks at the Consumer Product Safety Commission, which is responsible for ensuring consumer products don't pose health or safety risks.

Since 2002, the commission has asked the Customs and Border Protection agency for access to certain information that describes cargo coming into the country, under a 2002 agreement between the entities. That information, called "manifest data," would provide the commission with information about products in a shipment before it arrives in the U.S.

The report said the information has not been provided because Customs and Border Protection believed it was not specific enough for the consumer agency's purposes. Seven years later, the agencies have not yet worked out access. The new report says both agencies have work to do to resolve the issue.

"That advanced notice, combined with other data that they have, would help them better identify risks before the products enter the country," said Philip Curtin, a senior analyst at the GAO. Although the information is not perfect, it would certainly be better than not having it, the congressional investigators

said.

In comparison, the Food and Drug Administration receives the advance shipment information from Customs, which enforces regulations for about 45 federal agencies.

The product safety commission has come under pressure in the last few years over the increasing number of recalled lead-tainted products, many from China. From 1998 to 2007, the value of consumer products imported into the U.S. about doubled, according to the investigators. Products from China nearly quadrupled over that time, making up about 42 percent of all imported consumer goods.

But the number of samples that the product safety commission collected for examination at ports of entry has dropped during that period. It collected 1,348 samples in 1999, but only 616 in 2006, 748 in 2007 and 1,170 last year.

Congressional investigators said the commission has few staff at ports and limited analytical and laboratory support. A new law is supposed to increase the number of commission personnel assigned at ports.

But investigators cited delays in implementing new powers given to the commission under the law and said the increased authority can only be effective if it's used more fully. And they said it's imperative for the problems in sharing cargo information to be worked.

Customs and Border Protection did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Scott Wolfson, speaking for the product safety commission, said the agency is reviewing the recommendations and "will seek to be responsive." □

Clinton: U.S. sent 'tough love' message to Africa

By MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writer

SANTA MARIA, Cape Verde — Winding up an 11-day African tour, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday she's optimistic about its future and voiced no regrets about "tough love" messages she gave to government leaders there.

"I love coming to Africa," Clinton said at a joint news conference in Cape Verde with Prime Minister Jose Maria Pereira Neves as she prepared to head back to Washington.

"I have been overwhelmed," the secretary said of her visits to Kenya, South Africa, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Liberia, as well as Cape Verde. "I have been filled with hope and I have seen despair. But I come away with an even greater level of commitment than I had before," Clinton said.

She used the tour to reinforce a message that President Barack Obama brought to Africa earlier this year, a call for leaders to fight corruption, promote democracy, and combat civil strife, disease, violence and squalor wherever it exists.

Responding to Clinton, Neves said that "we represent a new and emerging Africa" with progress in the areas of free press, free speech and the rule of law.

U.S. officials have said that Cape Verde, a former Portuguese colony off the coast of West Africa, could serve as a model for other African nations as it has held numerous free and fair elections and has taken measures to ensure accountability and transparency in government.

Clinton, particularly, praised the government as "a model of democracy and economic progress in Africa." She noted that women account for more than half the members of Cape Verde's Cabinet. "I think the United States can learn a lot from your example," she told Neves. □

California declares emergency as wildfires spread

BROOKE DONALD

Associated Press Writer

DAVENPORT, California (AP) — Fire crews fanned out Friday across a parched California where wind-whipped wildfires have forced hundreds of people to flee their homes and led to an emergency declaration in Santa Cruz County.

In the Santa Cruz Mountains, the Lockheed Fire has prompted officials to issue mandatory evacuation orders for the mountain communities of Swanton and Bonny Doon, which have about 2,400 residents and several wineries.

The blaze, which started Wednesday night, has blackened 6.5 square miles (17 square kilometers) of remote wilderness and was only about 5 percent contained, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

In Davenport, a coastal town near the Lockheed Fire, Lt. Gov. John Garamendi declared a state of emergency for Santa Cruz County as a step toward getting federal assistance for local governments and private property owners.

Garamendi was acting at the request of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors while Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was out of state attending the funeral of his mother-in-law, Eunice

Shriver.

"We're entering the height of fire season in California," he said. "We need to prepare."

The governor was expected to tour the fire zone on Saturday. The fire, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of the coastal city of Santa Cruz, has damaged only two small structures but was threatening more than 1,000 other homes and buildings. There have been no reports of injuries. The cause is under investigation. Six helicopters and six fixed-wing aircraft were expected to join the firefighting effort, along with another 300 firefighters to help the roughly 700 already on the scene.

The steep, rugged terrain and dense vegetation has made it difficult to contain the blaze, so firefighters are focused on keeping flames away from homes, said Jim Stunkel, a battalion chief from San Jose. "As the brush ignites, it's like a fireworks explosion, and the sparks rain down where the ranch houses are," he said. "As it comes toward us, we'll put hose lines down, dig a line

and try to push the fire back. That's all we can do right now."

Smoke plumes extended over 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Santa Cruz to Monterey, but winds were blowing the smoke out toward the Pacific Ocean, said Richard Stedman, director of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District. Officials were monitoring air quality but do not believe it has reached unhealthy levels. Farther down the coast, more than 1,800 firefighters were battling a wildfire around Los Padres National Forest that had grown to nearly 105 square miles (272 square kilometers), said U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman Valerie Baca.

Trinity County District Attorney Michael Harper charged 60-year-old Brenda Eitzen of Los Molinos with two felonies and two misdemeanors alleging she negligently sparked the blaze by throwing away a lit cigarette Wednesday. The charges could bring a maximum four-year prison term.



A firefighter watches as flames approach the Big Creek Ranch in unincorporated Santa Cruz County, Calif., on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009. The Lockheed Fire had burned about 2,800 acres as of Thursday evening.

Associated Press

Eitzen did not enter a plea at her arraignment. Her bail was set at \$100,000. Her attorney, Derrick Riske, did not return repeated telephone messages

Friday.

Eitzen has no criminal history, Harper said. She was staying at a drug rehabilitation shelter at the time of the fire, he said.

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Bottles containing gasoline with Mexican Attorney General stickers on them, after they were seized at a small shack where a Pemex gas pipeline was being tapped are shown to the media on the outskirts of Tijuana, Mexico, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009.

Associated Press

GAS THIEVES

Continued from Page B1

Mexican police busted gas thieves twice this week, said Carlos Ramirez, spokesman at Mexico's state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex.

In a colonial village a few hours west of the capital, police caught nine people Thursday who had siphoned more than 17,000 gallons of fuel from a pipeline into waiting tanker trucks. On Wednesday, just one hour south of the California border near the popular beaches of Rosarito, police plugged three different taps, including one that was operating inside a small, wooden shack.

But those busts will do little to plug a stream of stolen petroleum products, millions of dollars worth of which is smuggled across the border and sold to U.S. refineries, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

While Mexican authorities try to patch the leaks, U.S. officials are tracking proceeds from various Texas bank accounts and taking a close look at several Texas companies to quell the theft at their end. To date, the companies identified are small fuel distributors, not the major U.S. refineries.

Houston-based Trammo Petroleum president Donald Schroeder, the first to be convicted as part of a cross-border investigation, agreed to pay a \$2 million fine to the U.S. government while he awaits a December sentencing. In addition, on Tuesday U.S. officials handed their Mexican counterparts a separate \$2.4 million refund check from Trammo to partially compensate Pemex for its losses.

Schroeder pleaded guilty to buying and reselling stolen condensate, a liquid hydrocarbon that refiners can blend with crude oil as they produce fuel and other products.

Mexico's federal police commissioner, Rodrigo Esparza, has said the Zetas, a fierce drug gang aligned with the Gulf cartel, used false import documents to smuggle at least \$46 million worth of oil in tankers to unidentified U.S. refineries. Mexico froze 149 bank accounts this year in connection with that crime.

U.S. federal officials say further arrests are expected, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers have served 10 federal search warrants on bank accounts in Texas.

In May, the U.S. government seized \$102,525 from San Antonio-based Valley Fuels Ltd. saying, in court records, that ICE investigators had "confirmed that the gas condensate sold by Valley Fuels had been stolen from Mexico." Valley Fuels president Stephen Pechenik responded in court records, denying that the funds had anything to do with a conspiracy to buy or sell stolen oil.

In response to an inquiry from The Associated Press, Valley Fuels said in an e-mail this week that it has been deluged by news media calls for comment. "As much as we would like to tell our side for the world to hear, our attorneys have advised us to 'No Comment,'" the company said. Its Web site

says Valley Fuels' business is to buy, sell and move petroleum and petroleum products worldwide. The company says it also specializes in "structuring transactions that offer the best possible value to our suppliers while at the same time providing the lowest cost to our customers."

Court records show another \$40,000 was seized from Continental Fuels Inc., whose Web site lists a Houston address. That seizure has not been contested. Continental Fuels, which also deals in the distribution of petroleum products, did not respond to phone and e-mail requests.

John Auers, senior vice president at Turner Mason & Co., a Dallas-based petroleum consultancy, said it's unlikely any major U.S. refiner knowingly bought stolen products.

One possible way stolen condensate could find its way to a refinery is if it was "laundered" through a smaller processing company and then shipped to one of the big refiners, Auers said.

A small plant that buys and distills condensate — and then sells to refiners — might not be as rigorous as a major refiner checking a shipment's origins.

"We're talking about very small volumes of material," Auers said. "In small volumes, that stuff can move through these (small processing plants). ... I don't think any of this stuff would have gotten into the finished petroleum product market without it somehow being laundered in between — sort of like laundering dirty money."

Auers noted that stolen gasoline would be even more difficult to sell because imports are heavily regulated.

"Any reputable refiner ... would have to first have detailed paperwork from the importer," he said. "I have a hard time believing any refiner in the U.S. would not be able to see through stolen gasoline or stolen diesel." □



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PG-13 G.I. JOE THE RISE OF THE COBRA	daily: 5:45	8:30			
	matinee: 12:30	3:15	late show: 11:15		
PG-13 TRANSFORMER 2	daily: 8:00				
	matinee:		late show: 11:00		
R THE HANGOVER	daily: 7:30	10:00			
	matinee:		late show: 12:15		
R THE ORPHAN	daily: 6:15	8:45			
	matinee: 12:45	3:30	late show: 11:30		
PG HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE	daily: 4:15				
	matinee: 1:00		late show:		
PG ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily: 4:00	6:00			
	matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show:		
PG ALIENS IN THE ATTIC	daily: 5:00	7:15	9:30		
	matinee: 12:15	2:45	late show: 12:00		

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13 DISTRICT 9	daily: 5:30	7:45	10:15		NEW
	matinee: 1:00	3:15	late show: 12:30		
R FUNNY PEOPLE	daily: 6:00	9:00			
	matinee: 12:00	3:00	late show: 12:00		
PG-13 THE PROPOSAL	daily: 9:30				
	matinee:		late show: 12:15		
PG HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE	daily: 4:30	8:00			
	matinee: 1:15		late show: 11:15		
R THE HANGOVER	daily: 7:30	10:00			
	matinee:		late show: 12:30		
PG G-FORCE	daily: 5:00	7:15			
	matinee: 12:45	2:45	late show:		
PG-13 JULIE AND JULIA	daily: 4:45				
	matinee: 2:00		late show:		
R THE UGLY TRUTH	daily: 4:45	7:00	9:15		
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Missing cargo ship found near Cape Verde

By LYNN BERRY

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — A Russian-manned cargo ship that vanished last month in the Atlantic was found Friday near Cape Verde off the coast of West Africa, according to French and Russian officials. There was no immediate information about the condition of the crew or whether there was anyone else on board.

The Arctic Sea — carrying a load of timber and 15 Russian sailors — disappeared after passing through the English Channel on July 28. The Maltese-flagged freighter sent radio messages as it sailed along the coasts of France and Portugal, but then all contact was lost.

“Cape Verde coast guards said they have located the boat” about 520 miles off Cape Verde, said French Defense Ministry spokesman Capt. Jerome Baroe. France was involved in search efforts together with several other countries.

Two military officials in Brussels separately confirmed the ship had been tracked and located off West Africa. The officials asked not to be named while the operation was ongoing.

Russian naval ships were ordered to pursue the ship after the Cape Verde coast guard reported the freighter was outside the country’s territorial waters to the north, Russian Ambassador to Cape Verde Alexander Karpushin told The Associated Press.

The ambassador did not say when the naval ships were expected to arrive in the area.

The four ships involved in the search, including a frigate, had entered the Atlantic late Tuesday. Their whereabouts Friday were unknown.

It also was unclear whether the freighter had laid anchor or was continuing to sail south. It had enough food and fuel to last through the end of the month, the ship’s Russian operator said.

The ship’s crew had reported a June 24 attack in Swedish waters by up to a dozen masked men, who they said tied them up, questioned them about drug trafficking, beat them and searched the freighter before leaving 12 hours later in a high-speed inflatable boat.

The alleged attack, unusual in itself, raised further concerns because it was not reported until the freighter had passed through Britain’s busy shipping lanes and was heading out into the wide Atlantic. There have been fears that some of

the attackers might still be aboard.

The Arctic Sea, which left from Finland on June 23, had been due to make port Aug. 4 in Algeria with its euro1.3 million (\$1.8 million) haul of timber.

The European Commission suggested the ship may have come under attack a second time. “Radio calls were apparently received from the ship, which had supposedly been under attack twice, the first time off the Swedish coast and then off the Portuguese coast,” said commission spokesman Martin Selmayr. He said he could add no further comment so as not to hinder the ongoing law enforcement activities.

The Portuguese Foreign Ministry said, however, that the ship was never in Portuguese territorial waters. The ship’s operator, Solchart Arkhangelsk, said it had no information about a possible



In this Dec. 29, 2008 photo the cargo ship the Arctic Sea is seen in Kotka, Finland. The Arctic Sea, a Maltese-flagged cargo ship, was supposed to make port in Algeria with its cargo of timber on August 4. More than a week later, there’s no sign of the ship or its Russian crew.

Associated Press

second attack. Company officials said all attempts to communicate with the crew have failed.

The ship’s captain is 50-year-old Sergei Zaretsky, a veteran of such sea voyages, said Solchart deputy director Ivan Boiko. All of the sailors are from Arkhangelsk, a port city in the far northwest of Russia. French maritime authorities said they received radio messages on July 29 as the ship sailed past the north coast of France. The Arctic Sea’s report to British maritime authorities

as it passed through the Dover Strait, one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes, was the last known voice contact with the crew.

Speculation on what might have happened to the ship has ranged from suspicions that it was carrying secret cargo — possibly narcotics — to theories about a commercial dispute. Security experts have been wary of attributing its disappearance to bandits, noting that piracy is almost unheard of in European waters. □



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Hezbollah chief: We'll hit Tel Aviv if Beirut hit



Hezbollah supporters raise their hands in front of Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah who speaks via a video link, during a rally to mark the third anniversary of the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war, in a southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on Friday Aug. 14, 2009.

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP)—The leader of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah warned Israel Friday his fighters would hit Tel Aviv with rockets if Israeli forces attack Beirut or the guerrillas' stronghold in its southern suburbs. Speaking on the anniversary of the end of the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said the Shiite militants are now capable of striking any Israeli city. In 2006, the Iranian-backed

Hezbollah rocketed the port of Haifa and other parts of Israel's north but spared Tel Aviv to the south. Israeli warplanes destroyed entire blocks in Beirut's southern suburbs, including Nasrallah's office and Hezbollah's headquarters. The inconclusive, monthlong war killed about 1,200 people in Lebanon, most of the civilians, and about 160 in Israel. Nasrallah's speech added to the tension of back-and-forth

warnings between Hezbollah and Israel that have escalated since a July 14 explosion at a suspected Hezbollah arms depot near the Israeli border. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israel would hold the Lebanese government responsible for any attacks on Israeli targets by Hezbollah. He warned Lebanon against letting Hezbollah join the new government. He said the government in Beirut could not turn a blind eye to Hezbollah's activities while the group sits in the Lebanese parliament and plays a major role in the country's politics. Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak made an even starker warning last week, saying that in the event of renewed

hostilities, Israel would "go after not only Hezbollah but the entire state of Lebanon." Nasrallah, appearing on a giant screen from his hiding place, addressed thousands of supporters waving yellow Hezbollah flags who gathered for the rally in south Beirut. He said recent Israeli warnings against Lebanon do not signal that Israel is planning to attack soon. He said the Israeli warnings were part of a "psychological war" aimed at preventing the militant group from joining a new Lebanese unity government, whose formation has been stalled since the June 7 election. "Today we are capable of striking any city or village" in Israel, Nasrallah told the

crowd. He promised "surprises" if Israel launches a new war on Lebanon. He did not elaborate. "It is our right to make (Israel) understand that if it bombs Beirut or the southern suburbs, we will strike Tel Aviv," Nasrallah said, drawing the cheers of supporters. The 2006 war began when Hezbollah guerrillas launched a cross-border attack that killed three Israeli soldiers. Hezbollah calls the outcome of the war "a divine victory" because Israel failed to crush the guerrillas, who withstood massive Israeli airstrikes and artillery bombardment. A U.N.-brokered cease-fire has held despite the threats from both sides. □

Honduran consuls ousted for disloyalty to Zelaya



E.J. TAMARA

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Four Honduran consular officials have been removed from their posts for refusing to declare loyalty to the ousted government of Manuel Zelaya or for supporting the man who replaced him, officials said Friday. Enrique Reina, Honduras' ambassador in the United States, told The Associated Press that the consuls were dismissed in Los Angeles, New York, Washington and San Francisco. The consuls were removed after Zelaya's Foreign Affairs Minister Patricia Rodas asked each consulate last month to provide a written statement outlining its position on

the coup.

Vivian Panting, Honduras' consul in Los Angeles, said she didn't respond to the letter because she didn't want to take sides. Zelaya was ousted from his home at gunpoint in June and flown into exile. Roberto Micheletti's interim government has refused to consider Zelaya's restoration, despite calls from the United States and the European Union. Because Washington recognizes Zelaya as Honduras' legitimate leader, consular officials appointed under Zelaya's government continue to hold their posts in the United States. Reina said a total of 17 consular officials have been removed so far and more changes may be necessary. Martha Lorena Alvarado, interim assistant foreign minister in Honduras, said the situation was complex because the United States has not recognized consular officials named by Micheletti's government. "To me, (this is) an unprecedented question from a diplomatic perspective," Alvarado said. "I don't know until when this situation will be sustainable for the Department of State." Micheletti's government had recognized the four consuls as legitimate before they were removed. A sign outside the Honduran consulate in Los Angeles stated that offices were closed because of security concerns. A spokesman at the Honduran consulate in New York said the consul did not go to work on Friday. □

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U.S. Senator Webb to meet Myanmar's junta leader

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — U.S. Senator Jim Webb will meet Myanmar's top military leader Saturday — the first senior American official to hold talks with the reclusive junta chief, officials said.

Webb arrived in Myanmar's capital Friday days after the world condemned the ruling generals over the sentencing of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi to more house arrest.

The visit has drawn criticism from activists who say it confers legitimacy on a brutal regime, but the Obama administration gave the Virginia Democrat its blessing.

Myanmar officials — who demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media — said Webb was expected to meet Senior Gen. Than Shwe in the

remote capital of Naypyitaw, as well as members of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party.

Unconfirmed reports said Webb would also visit Suu Kyi, who has begun serving 18 months of detention at her home in Yangon, and an imprisoned American also sentenced in the same case.

Relations between Myanmar, also known as Burma, and the U.S. have been strained since its military crushed pro-democracy protests in 1988.

Washington is Myanmar's strongest critic, applying political and economic sanctions against the junta for its poor human rights record and failure to hand over power to a democratically elected government. This week's sentencing of democracy leader Suu Kyi and an

American citizen at the same trial threatened to drag ties even lower.

But President Barack Obama's new ambassador for East Asia, Kurt Campbell, recently said the administration is interested in easing its policy of isolation. Webb, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's East Asia and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, has suggested that "affirmative engagement" would bring the most change to Myanmar, concerning those who think a hard line is the best approach. In a letter to Webb, dissident groups warned the junta would use the senator's trip for its own ends.

"We are concerned that the military regime will manipulate and exploit your visit and propagandize that you endorse their treatment on



In this Aug. 14, 2009 image taken from a video footage shot by MRTV via APTN, U.S. Senator Jim Webb, D-Va., center right, shakes hand with Myanmar Prime Minister Thein Sein, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.

Associated Press

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and over 2,100 political prisoners, their human rights abuses on the people of Burma, and their systematic, widespread and ongoing attack against the ethnic minorities," the letter said. Daw is a term of respect for older women in Myanmar. Possibly reflecting a similar wariness, a spokesman for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy said the party "has no interest in Jim Webb

because he is not known to have any interest in Myanmar affairs." He did not elaborate. Official media, however, appeared to herald Webb's arrival. The nightly broadcast led with the visit, reporting that the senator met with Prime Minister Gen. Thein Sein on Friday, and returned to the subject several times during the night.

Suu Kyi has spent 14 of the last 20 years in detention. □



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Federer, Nadal both out of Rogers Cup

MONTREAL — Jo-Wilfried Tsonga pulled out a stunning victory over Roger Federer and Juan Martin Del Potro followed with a two-set win over Rafael Nadal on Friday to advance to the semifinals of the Rogers Cup.

The two stars were ousted after entering the tournament after time off. Nadal was coming back from 10 weeks off to treat tendinitis in both knees, and Federer was out while his wife gave birth to twins.

Down 5-1 in the third set, Tsonga used two service breaks to take the lead and then beat Federer in the tiebreaker for a 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (3) quarterfinal victory.

After several long exchanges in a first set decided in a tiebreaker, Del Potro broke Nadal's service twice for a



Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, from France, celebrates his victory over Roger Federer, from Switzerland, during quarterfinal play at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament on Friday, Aug. 14, 2009, in Montreal. Tsonga defeated Federer 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (3).

Associated Press

3-0 lead in the second for a 7-6 (5), 6-1 win. Nadal was the defending Rogers Cup champion.

Del Potro advanced to a semifinal meeting with Andy

Roddick, whom he beat in the final of a tournament in Washington on Sunday.

Tsonga will face third-seeded Andy Murray.

"I did not feel real good — 5-1

down and Roger playing well and I had no solutions," said the seventh-seeded Tsonga. "I just told myself 'you have to hit the ball one more time than him' and I did it.

"It's a good thing for me. It's amazing to change this match."

Federer looked to be coasting to a victory when he started struggling on his serve just as Tsonga seemed to find his form.

"It's obviously disappointing but you know, that's what Jo does — he doesn't make a return for an hour and then he puts in a few and then all of a sudden he's back in the match," Federer said. "I should never have allowed it but it happened, so it's a pity."

Continued on Page B13



Los Angeles Galaxy forward Landon Donovan leaves after practice for the team's upcoming friendly soccer match against AC Milan, at Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif., Saturday, July 18, 2009.

Associated Press

Galaxy's Donovan tests positive for swine flu

CARSON, California (AP) — Los Angeles Galaxy forward Landon Donovan tested positive for what was believed to be swine flu, and his teammates are taking precautions. Donovan was to be evaluated by a doctor on Friday and Saturday, the team said. His status for the Galaxy's game against Seattle on Saturday in Major League Soccer remained unclear.

"It certainly depends on how Landon feels and what the doctors tell me," Galaxy coach Bruce Arena said on Friday.

Donovan did not practice on Friday after playing all 90 minutes for the United States in a 2-1 loss to Mexico in World Cup qualifying on Wednesday in Mexico City.

The United States Soccer Federation said Donovan joined the national team on Aug. 9 in Miami, three days before the game. It also said that no other players expressed or showed signs of flulike symptoms while in camp.

"Even Landon said it hasn't hit him as hard as the normal flus have hit him," Galaxy spokesman Justin Pearson said.

Phelps to be cited for invalid driver's license

BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps was driving with an invalid, out-of-state license and told police he drank a beer about 75 minutes before he was involved in an accident, Baltimore police said on Friday.

The accident late Thursday was not Phelps' fault and was caused by another driver who ran a red light, police said.

Officers did not administer field sobriety tests because Phelps showed no signs of being impaired by alcohol, police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said. Police were aware of Phelps' 2004 conviction for drunken driving and did not give him special treatment, Guglielmi said.

Phelps told police he drank a beer around 7:30 p.m. and left his house about an hour later, according to a police report. The accident occurred around 8:45 p.m., shortly after he had left Baltimore's train station with two passengers, the report said.

The swimming star will be cited for driving without a license and failure to establish residency in Maryland, Guglielmi said. The citation carries no fine, but Phelps will have to appear in court and explain why he did not have a valid license.

Phelps presented officers with a Michigan driver's license, according to a police report, and investigators determined that the license was invalid after consulting with Michigan authorities. Phelps lived in Michigan between the 2004 and 2008 Olympics and moved back to his native Baltimore last year.

The other driver, Amanda E. Virkus, ran a red light shortly before 9 p.m., and Phelps' SUV crashed into the driver's side of her car at the intersection of two one-way streets north of



Michael Phelps of the United States swims to the gold medal of the Men's 4x100m Medley Relay at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Rome, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009.

Associated Press

downtown, police said.

Virkus will be cited for failure to obey a red light and causing an accident. Those citations carry a maximum penalty of a \$180 fine and three points on a driver's license, Guglielmi said.

Two parked cars also sustained minor damage, and one of them was occupied at the time, according to the report.

Phelps said in a statement to police that his right ankle hurt after the crash, but he did not seek treatment. His two passengers were uninjured. Virkus was treated at a local hospital for back pain and released. A woman sitting in the parked car was not hurt.

Phelps has won 14 gold medals, including eight at last year's Beijing Olympics. He recently returned to Baltimore from the world swimming championships in Rome, where he won five golds and a silver.

Woods builds a four-shot lead at PGA Championship

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CHASKA, Minnesota (AP)

— Three players took turns sharing the lead with Tiger Woods until he stood alone halfway through the U.S. PGA Championship on Friday.

The final hour at Hazeltine National changed everything. Woods fired off three straight birdies, which began with a drive onto the fringe of the 299-yard 14th hole and ended with Woods nodding his head and dangling his tongue out of the side of his mouth after making a 20-footer.

He finished with a 2-under 70 to build a four-shot lead, his largest through 36 holes at a major since the 2005 British Open at St. Andrews, where he led by five.

Woods has an 8-0 record when leading a major through 36 holes, and his chances only improved as everyone around him faltered. "In order to have a lead in a major championship, you can't be playing poorly," said Woods, who was at 7-under 137. "And all the times that I've been in this position, I have played well. And I'm playing well now."

Ross Fisher was the last challenger to crumble. Tied for the lead with two holes to play, he came up woefully short on the par-3 17th and hit a drive that left him an awkward stance in the sand, both shots leading to bogey and a 68. Padraig Harrington was tied with eight holes to play until he made three straight bogeys, closing with another bogey when he missed a 3½-foot putt. He finished with a 73.

Before them was Graeme McDowell, who couldn't keep the ball dry and wasted a good start by shooting 75.

Fisher and Harrington finished four shots behind at 3-under 141, along with Vijay Singh (72), U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover (70) and Brendan Jones (70), who played in the morning when the greens were at their smoothest, though still not easy.

"I mean, yes, Tiger is the greatest golfer I think we've ever seen," Fisher said. "But

at the end of the day, he's just like me and you. He's just a human being. He just happens to be damn good at golf. So we've got to work really, really hard to try and compete with him and catch him."

Woods has not lost a 36-hole lead on the U.S. PGA Tour in five years, dating to the Byron Nelson when he was revamping his swing. He came to Hazeltine having won his last two tournaments, however, and appears to be hitting his stride.

He avoided his second bogey in three holes with a 12-foot par save at No. 12, missed a birdie opportunity to take the lead on the 13th, then poured it on. The tees on the 352-yard 14th hole were moved up, giving players the option of trying to drive the green. At only 299 with the wind in their favor, it wasn't much of a choice.

Woods flushed his 3-wood onto the green and just onto the fringe, nearly holing the eagle putt. On the par-5 15th, he hit 3-wood through the green and chipped to tap-in range to widen the lead. Then came the 16th, and a putt that gave this major that inevitable feeling of Woods hoisting the Wanamaker Trophy for a record-tying fifth time.

"His game looked solid again today," Harrington said after playing with Woods for the third straight round, dating to Sunday at the Bridgestone Invitational where Woods overcame a three-shot deficit to beat him. "I think he's in a good position. The reason he's a good front-runner is he can pick and choose his shots, and he's not been pushed into shots that he doesn't have to hit. And he's very good at that." Harrington faced one of those shots, and it was a dandy.

Trying to get back into the game at the 15th, his ball on a slope in the bunker, Harrington thought the slope would help him reach the green, and he pounded a 3-wood that was perfect. It stopped 15 feet from the cup.

Woods called it one of the best shots he had ever seen, "worth

the price of admission."

"He did say to me actually he would have paid to have seen it," Harrington said. "So I asked him for 50 bucks."

Woods gave nothing to anyone at Hazeltine — not even himself.


"There's a long way to go," he said. Still, it was the first time Woods has opened a major with consecutive rounds under par since the 2006 U.S. PGA. He will be paired in the final group on Saturday with Singh, one of his many rivals. They have not played together since the Deutsche Bank Classic in 2007, and not in a major since the 2004 U.S. PGA, which Singh won for his third major.




Tiger Woods tips his cap to the gallery after sinking a birdie putt on the 16th green during the second round of the 91st PGA Championship at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., Friday, Aug. 14, 2009.

Associated Press

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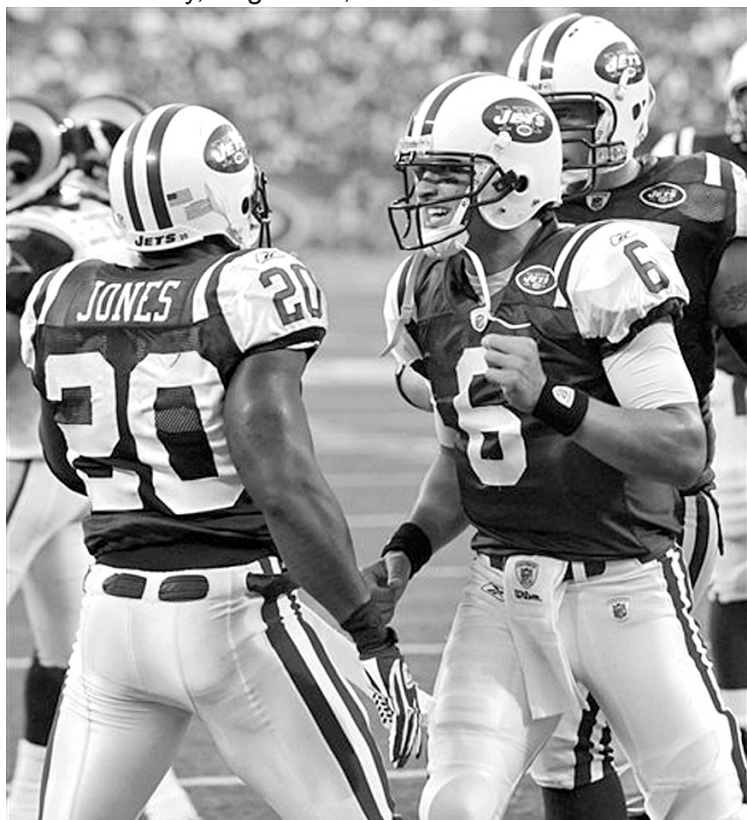


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New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez (6) reacts after teammate Thomas Jones scored during the second quarter against the St. Louis Rams at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., Friday, Aug. 14, 2009.

Associated Press

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

— Mark Sanchez got the play call from the sideline and looked at his New York Jets

teammates, a bit surprised.

The rookie quarterback was being asked to air it out on his first play in the NFL.

“I said, ‘Here we go, man!’”

Sanchez said. “Let’s go!

Jets’ Sanchez sparkles in NFL debut

Let’s do it! Dial it up!’”

Sanchez, who came in with 28 seconds left in the first quarter, completed a 48-yard pass to David Clowney on his first snap and engineered an early scoring drive in New York’s 23-20 loss to the St. Louis Rams on Friday night.

“When Mark came in, he looked like he’s been looking in practice,” said Rex Ryan, whose head coaching debut was spoiled by the loss. “He stepped in and it wasn’t too big for him.”

The play was drawn up by offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer, who also surprised Ryan with the bold call.

“I had no idea,” Ryan said. “I was shocked by it, like, ‘What the heck was that? Let the guy warm up a little bit.’ It just shows you the kind of kid he is, a cool customer.”

Sanchez, the former Southern California star selected with the fifth overall pick, had a rookie moment, though, seconds before zipping the ball down the right sideline and into Clowney’s hands.

“As soon as he caught it, I was really excited — and then I was looking for my mouthpiece because I dropped it, mid-cadence,” Sanchez said, grinning. “I said, ‘Green-30,’ and boom, my mouthpiece came out and the defense was laughing. I thought, ‘What an idiot.’”

Seven plays after the pass to Clowney, Thomas Jones took a handoff and leaped over the

pile from a yard out, the ball crossing the goal line before Todd Johnson knocked it out of Jones’ hands. St. Louis’ Steve Spagnuolo, a winner in his head coaching debut, challenged the call, but it was upheld by video review.

Sanchez, with several family members in attendance, completed three of four passes for 88 yards.

Kellen Clemens, competing with Sanchez for the starting job, completed all four of his pass attempts for a total of 24 yards and was sacked once in two series.

Ryan, disappointed with the loss, said he wasn’t yet ready to name a starter for the team’s next game at Baltimore on Aug. 24.

“We’ll just continue to compete and improve until (Ryan) is ready,” Clemens said. “And, hopefully after that, we’ll have a clear No. 1 and 2.”

Trailing 20-16, St. Louis took advantage of a muffed punt return by the Jets’ Paul Raymond to get the ball deep in New York territory. Rookie Keith Null, who came on in place of the injured Brock Berlin, put the Rams back ahead three plays later on a 13-yard touchdown pass to Sean Walker with 7:32 remaining.

“It’s good to win a football game,” Spagnuolo said. “It’s good to win anything that you compete in, so we’re happy about that. We’ve certainly got a lot of work to do. This

was only a beginning.”

Spagnuolo, who interviewed for the Jets job, won in his return to the Meadowlands for the first time as a head coach. Spagnuolo was the defensive coordinator for the Giants the last two seasons.

“I have great memories here,” Spagnuolo said. “I was not wrapped up in that. I just kind of get into a little bit of zone.”

Erik Ainge, 10 of 17 for 148 yards, put the Jets ahead 20-16 with 10:27 left when he playfaked and found Clowney wide open down the middle of the field for a 50-yard touchdown.

St. Louis scored first, taking advantage of a turnover when Leonard Little had a strip-sack of Clemens and James Hall recovered. Four plays later, Josh Brown kicked a 48-yard field goal, the first of three on the night, to give St. Louis a 3-0 lead.

Samkon Gado avoided a tackle attempt by James Ihedigbo and zipped 77 yards into the end zone 25 seconds into the third quarter to give St. Louis a 16-10 lead.

“I saw the safety and I gave him a little move,” Gado said.

“I’m not really known for my moves, but after that, it was just me and the end zone.”

Ryan’s defense gave up a couple of big plays, including Laurent Robinson’s 50-yard catch from Marc Bulger, but was aggressive early with three sacks. Bulger was 4 of 4 for 77 yards in three series. □



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Rafael Nadal, from Spain, reacts after losing a point to Juan Martin Del Potro, from Argentina, during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament Friday, Aug. 14, 2009 in Montreal.

Associated Press

Continued from Page B10

Federer forced a final tiebreaker, but Tsonga used two aces to take the lead and then saw the top seed double-fault on match point.

"It's a tough match to go through because it was either very close or very one-sided," Federer said. "That doesn't make it easy on the rhythm, obviously."

"It's great to get some matches in ahead of Cincinnati (next week) and the U.S. Open," he said. "But my goal wasn't to just to play matches and do press conferences."

"The whole trip here was to do well and try to win the tournament," Federer said.

Fifth-seeded Andy Roddick recovered from a second-set service break to advance with a 6-4, 7-6 (4) victory over fourth-seeded Novak Djokovic. It was Roddick's third win this year over the Serb. He is 4 for 4 in the tournament in tiebreakers and leads the ATP Tour with 33 tiebreaker wins.

"It's been important for me my entire career," said Roddick, the 2003 Rogers Cup champion. "I'm starting to break serve a lot more now, but I certainly grew accustomed to playing a lot

of tiebreakers early on. I'm comfortable playing them, and normally I can count on getting a couple of points on my serve."

Roddick is looking to reach a third straight final, after losing to Federer in a five-set thriller at Wimbledon and the loss in Washington.

Murray ended Nikolay Davydenko's 12-match winning streak with a 6-2, 6-4 victory. Davydenko, seeded eighth, came into the tournament following wins at Hamburg and Umag. □

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EEUU desestima preocupación por pacto bases en Colombia

BOGOTA (Reuters) - Un plan para dar a militares de Estados Unidos más acceso a bases colombianas está enfocado en misiones antidrogas y de lucha contra insurgentes, sin contemplar un aumento del número de soldados estadounidenses, dijo un funcionario de Defensa del país norteamericano.

La propuesta para permitir que las fuerzas estadounidenses usen hasta siete instalaciones militares colombianas ha sido causa de preocupación en Latinoamérica y provocó tensiones en la región, donde el presidente venezolano, Hugo Chávez, y sus aliados de izquierda se oponen a la influencia de Washington.

El Gobierno estadounidense afirma que el plan es una extensión de la cooperación existente con Colombia, que ha recibido más de 5.000 millones de dólares en ayuda para combatir a los narcotraficantes y a los

guerrilleros de las FARC que libran la insurgencia más larga de Latinoamérica.

“Las misiones son las mismas, que son antinarcóticos y sus vínculos con el terrorismo en Colombia”, dijo a Reuters Frank Mora, sub secretario adjunto de Defensa de Estados Unidos para el Hemisferio Occidental, en una entrevista en la noche del jueves.

“Tendremos más acceso pero eso no significa que vamos a tener más recursos o más tropas”, agregó.

Apoyado con fondos estadounidenses, el presidente colombiano, Alvaro Uribe, se ha concentrado en su lucha contra la guerrilla de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), que han sido replegadas a las remotas zonas selváticas del país.

La violencia y los asaltos se han reducido drásticamente en el país andino y la inversión extranjera ha aumentado. Sin embargo, Colombia sigue



Foto de archivo del presidente de Colombia, Alvaro Uribe (izquierda en la imagen), junto a su par estadounidense, Barack Obama, durante una reunión en la Casa Blanca en Washington, 29 jun 2009. REUTERS/Jim Young

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hacia el norte, pasando por Venezuela y el Caribe en dirección a Europa. Las FARC siguen siendo influyentes en

algunas zonas rurales, usando tácticas de asalto y huida y emboscadas contra las fuerzas de seguridad. □

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